

Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



2003 ACCS AWARD OF MERIT

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society awarded its 2003 Award of Merit to Paul and Marie Dahlen for a job well done associated with their love of Camellias and many other flowers.

The honored couple became avid, competitive Camellia growers when they moved permanently to Aiken, South Carolina in 1951. Paul, in addition to growing and exhibiting Camellia flowers has served as an officer and President of the Aiken Camellia Society, President of the South Carolina Camellia Society — predecessor of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS), State Director of the ACCS, and State Director of the American Camellia Society. Paul has been a contributing author to many Camellia organization's publications.

Paul and Marie have helped most clubs throughout the Southeastern States as American Camellia Society accredited judges at their Camellia shows. They have presented programs for numerous Camellia societies and garden clubs. Not only has Marie served in various official positions for the Aiken Camellia Society, she also served the American Camellia Society as General Chairperson of Artistic Arrangements.

The second **Award of Merit** from the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society was awarded to Paul and Marie Dahlen, two of the most loved and deserving people who promote the culture of the Camellia and who are ambassadors for all camellia societies.

Cover Photograph: Paul and Marie Dahlen and Lee Poe

The Dahlens receive the 2003 Atlantic Coast Camellia Society **Award of Merit** from their nominator, Lee Poe, Jr., 1st Vice President of ACCS. (Read the committee motion to establish the award on Page 1.)

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

Award of Merit

Award: The award will consist of a plaque with a cost of less than \$75.00 when appropriate, and maximum of \$100.00 as a limit, and a \$250.00 donation to the American Camellia society (ACS). In addition, the President of the ACCS will write an appropriate letter to the recipient stating the specifics of why the award was given. A copy of the letter or a separate letter stating the specifics will be sent to the ACS by the ACCS President. If the committee may note; in the eyes of the recipient, this letter could very well be the most important element of the award,

Award frequency: The frequency of the award will be no more than one per year, with no requirement that one be awarded each year. On those years where there is no award made, it will go without ever being awarded. There will be no accumulative effect that would allow the awarding of more than one award per year.

Eligibility requirements: Recipient must be a present or past member of the ACCS, living or deceased.

Purpose of the award: To pay recognition to an ACCS member who has shown special leadership in, devotion to, or support of the ACCS, ACS, or Camellia at-large community.

Inscription engraved on plaque: The content of the engraved inscription will be authored by the President of the ACCS, his appointee or a committee chosen at the president's discretion. This in no way gives the authority to change the name of the award itself. The name, Award of Merit, is permanently part of the award.

Vote requirements: The vote required to make the award will be a 2/3 vote of those present at a board of directors meeting, or a 2/3 vote of those present at a general meeting of the ACCS. ALSO: The vote required to amend the award as to such things as cost of the plaque and ACS contribution will require a 2/3 vote as described in the sentence above.

Motion Made by Committee: Bob Reese, Miles Beach, and Lee Poe

Atlantic Coast Camellias
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ACCS President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Already it is January, the height of our Camellia blooming season. I hope that each of you has had the excitement of seeing for the first time, a new Camellia bloom in your garden. That just might be one of our grander experiences as Camellia growers.

Since this is our first contact since the annual meeting in Myrtle Beach, I would like to let those of you who were not there know that we missed you very much, and do hope you are making plans to meet with us in September, 2004. If the truth is known however, the loss was all yours. We had a great time of relaxed fun and fellowship.

Not knowing the circumstance for every absentee I can only trust that you are all well and happy. I do want to bring you quickly up to date on two couples that were absent for medical reasons. I was able to announce at our annual meeting the cause of absence for Bill and Mildred Robertson, and Lloyd and Lou Bryant. I saw and spoke with Bill at the Valdosta Show (Nov. 16, 2003) and he looked and felt well following his surgery and recovery. Welcome back to being yourself Bill. Recently, I talked by telephone with Lou Bryant concerning Lloyd's recovery progress. Lloyd is suffering from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. I am sorry to report that Lloyd's recovery has been a long and difficult one—still far from being over. Lloyd has had some serious setbacks followed by what appears to be some light at the end of the tunnel. Please contact Lloyd & Lou and keep them in your thoughts and Prayers. Keep up the good spirits Lloyd. Lou reports that you have kept your chin up through the entire process.

My sincere appreciation goes to all members who work so hard each year for the benefit of ACCS. I cannot list everyone who deserves thanks, but must express special thanks to several people who stepped up with very short notice to help with this year's annual meeting and banquet.

MANY THANKS TO: David Sheets, Acting Secretary for both business meetings, great job. Mack and Ann McKinnon and Jim and Carolyn Dixon who handled our raffle. Raffle contributors Clara Hahn, Elizabeth Wolfe, and Ogle Hess, most generous. Miles Beach and Committee, drafting a new Constitution/Bylaws, great job. ACCS Officers, I m so impressed with all that you do, you are all special.

OUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT — Increases have occurred in the cost of holding our Annual Meeting. These increases were anticipated as

adjustments for inflation. In 2003 both the Elks Lodge and tent rental charges were higher. We as a society also voted unanimously at the Annual Meeting, to support "our" American Camellia Society with a \$2,001 contribution each year for the next five years. The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society joined the Gulf Coast Camellia Society in making generous commitments. (I am happy to point out that while these costs, that have to be paid by our ACCS Treasurer have gone up in 2003, your individual charges came down at the Sand Castle Lodge.)

To help the Society meet higher costs in future years, I want to encourage all members to reproduce some of your better Camellia plants for future ACCS auctions at Myrtle Beach. With February the month to graft and March the month to air-layer we can all get propagating under way. I, for one, have much better luck with my air-layers than with my grafts. We may not all have the eye or touch to be good at grafting, but air-layers are a walk in the park—something that each of us can do with simple directions. Bring a plant to Myrtle Beach in September from your best show winner and share it. What could be more fun than having your own strain beat you in a future camellia show? Many ACCS members enter blooms in shows and are always looking for the really great strain of a particular bloom. This will help them get those strains, make our auctions much more interesting and make Buck & Bill's auctioning job much easier.

Raffle contributions would also be much appreciated. These two fundraisers, the auction and raffle, represent much of our financial stability. Anything that you do to help with fund raising is helping continue the success of your Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.

Looking Forward,
Bob Reese

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Past Presidents and President

1980-1982	Hulyn Smith,	Georgia
1982-1984	Annabelle L. Fetterman	North Carolina
1984-1986	Elliott Brogden*	South Carolina
1986-1988	Richard L. Waltz	Virginia
1988-1990	Leslie P. Cauthon	Georgia
1990-1992	Marrion Edwards*	Florida
1992-1994	Mildred S. Robertson	South Carolina
1994-1996	T. Edward Powers	North Carolina
1996-1998	William A. Hardwick	Georgia
1998- 2000	Jeanette Waltz	Virginia
2000-2002	Geary M. Serpas	South Carolina
2002-2004	Robert R. Reese	Florida

*Deceased

Editor's Ramblings

Bob Reese in his "President's Letter" is touting cloning the best "strains" of Camellias being grown by Atlantic Coast Camellia Society members and bringing or sending them each year for the fund raising auction at Myrtle Beach. This is an exciting undertaking. We have heard that "you can't make a race horse out of a jackass;" therefore, let's all try to get the race-horse. At the auction a chance at verbalizing the merits of your plant offers the opportunity to point out personal successes and brag about the awards your flowers have won—more so than standing around the head table at shows, excited but coy, to hear what other people say about your great flowers. Your remarks about your plant at the auction will whet the appetite of bidders and help the auctioneers get a good price. Bob requested that we root, air layer or graft our best award winning plants. Check your old journals for "how-to" articles.

Members who love exhibiting Camellias know that the plant to grow (many times because of limited space) is the strain that is the most beautiful and the one that wins shows. Most members who grow these plants are willing to share scions or you can buy them from a noted scion seller—ever with an eye for the outstanding strain. By cooperating, these growers will have the opportunity to share their great Camellias and leave with a special smile that only comes about through sharing. Pearl Buck said, "You only have what you give away."

If you can't go to the Myrtle Beach Convention, please let a friend take a clone of your prized plant to the auction.

I know from personal experience that it is impossible for another person to win the blue ribbon for "Grand Marshall" when Steve and Gayle Lawrence from Tallahassee enter their excellent variegated strain. Only one or two exhibitors have lucked out at the Georgia National Fair show against Rupie and Betty Drew's fantastic original strain of "Georgia National Fair." And what about Parker Connor's "Magic City." Isn't it fabulous? Can you believe the "Ville de Nantes" that John Newsome grows by his back steps? The rabbit ears and white coloring are always perfectly balanced. Louis and Joanne Raska's win in Jacksonville last month with perhaps the most beautiful "Helen Bower" most of us have ever seen made many mouths water for scions. Although the "Leona Rish" exhibited by Bill and Mildred Robertson was two weeks old and didn't go up, we could all tell that it must be the best strain. We know from viewing these fantastic flowers that there are genetically superior plants. Although I have several large Tomorrow's Dawn, the consistent winning blooms come from a single bush—winners that include the 2003 ACS Cawood Award. The flowers just seem to be larger, deeper and with more substance and balance than most you will see. These are examples of the strains that we should all grow—the

strains considered the best by ACS judges—the strains that should be shared through the ACCS auction and through sharing scions.

Most Camellia seedlings are solid colors. A low percentage rate has genetic variegation. Most cultivars are purposely variegated by using variegated under stock or by wounding and tying branches together for sap to be exchanged to impart white or colorless patterns. Virus can also be accidentally induced through root contact with plants infected with virus. Regardless of how the variegation comes about, it seems that the ones with the most white distributed evenly throughout, or blooms with unusual patterns are the most desirable and are the ones being sought.

There are those who believe that growers should try to get rid of all viruses in camellia plants and that camellias should only be solid colors or genetically variegated. Now that is another story and we won't go there.

All of us want to grow the very best, perfect camellia blooms. Any time a chance comes along to improve on the varieties grown, we must take advantage of it. Keep looking for that limb that sports a new and better strain and cultivate it. Prune off and discard the limbs that bear inferior blooms. No one wants the racehorse that just runs a race; we want the thoroughbred that wins the race. Let's share scions and plants for the positive benefit of the camellia shrub that we so dearly love to grow.

OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2003-2004

PRESIDENT	Bob Reese
1 st VICE PRESIDENT.....	W. Lee Poe, Jr.
2 nd VICE PRESIDENT.....	John Newsome
SECRETARY	Mildred Robertson
TREASURER.....	Bonnie Serpas
HISTORIAN.....	Cheryl Thompson
WEBMASTER	Miles Beach
PAST PRESIDENT.....	Geary Serpas
EDITOR.....	Richard Mims
Assistant Editor.....	Mary Kay Hall

ACCS website: www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com

Constitution and By-Laws of The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society September 27, 2003

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be known as The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES

The purposes of the Society shall be:

1. To stimulate and extend the appreciation of camellias and to promote the science of camellia culture.
2. To bring together in friendship and fellowship those interested in camellias.
3. To undertake and carry on such other business, enterprises and pursuits incidental to the purposes of the society as herein expressed or as may from time to time seem desirable by the Executive Committee or the membership at large.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The Society shall consist of three classes of membership, two of which are open to any person who is interested in the culture of camellias. All members of the society in good standing shall be entitled to all privileges of the society including the right to vote and hold office.

1. Charter Member - Any member who joined the Society prior to the end of the 1981 convention and is still in good standing. This class of membership is closed.
2. Annual Member - All members who joined after the 1981 convention and are in good standing.
3. Life Member - All members are eligible to become life members of the society by paying onetime dues equal to twenty times the dues in effect at the time of payment.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNMENT

1. **OFFICERS:** The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.
2. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers, Historian, Journal Editor, Webmaster and the immediate Past

President. The President shall be the chairman of the Executive Committee. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

3. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Committee, the state directors, directors-at-large and all past presidents.
4. **COMMITTEES:** The President shall have the power to appoint any regular or special committees s/he deems necessary to advance the objectives of the society. Any member in good standing may serve on such committees. The president shall be a member of all committees.
5. Should any seat on the Executive Committee be unfilled for any reason, it shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

The Board of Directors may propose amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws at any regular meeting. Copies of the proposed amendments must be submitted to all members of the Society at least fourteen (14) days prior to the annual meeting. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds vote of members present in good standing at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

1. **ANNUAL MEETING and CONVENTION:** The annual meeting and convention of the Society shall be held in the fall of the year and from time to time may host the American Camellia Society fall meeting. The Secretary shall provide at least sixty days written notice of the annual meeting to all members of the society.
2. **SPECIAL MEETING:** Any special meeting will be held at the call of the President, or on written petition to the President signed by 25 or more members in good standing. All members shall be notified 14 days prior to the meeting and the purpose of the meeting. Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum.
3. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The Executive Committee shall meet from time to time as adjourned or at the call of the President.
4. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The Board of Directors shall meet once in the spring and again as part of the annual meeting and convention or as called by the President.
5. Roberts Rules of Order Revised shall govern the Society except in cases where they are not consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws.
6. Any action not covered by the Constitution and By-Laws shall be reconciled by the Executive Committee and its decision shall be final.

ARTICLE VII - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three members in good standing not later than thirty days prior to the annual meeting. The nominating committee shall announce the slate of officers at the meeting. Nominations may be accepted for any office from the floor. Voting may be by written ballot at the discretion of the presiding officer. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.
2. **TERMS OF OFFICE:** All officers shall be elected for a term of two years.
3. Each state having fifteen or more members is entitled to two Directors. Each state having at least five and less than fifteen members is entitled to one Director. All states not entitled to a Director are entitled as a group to one Director-at-Large.
4. The retiring President shall become "President Emeritus".

ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Society and serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee. S/He shall appoint the chairman of all committees.

1. The First Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence. S/He shall serve as the Convention Chairman and be responsible for all aspects of the convention including securing the hotel, meeting spaces and all provided meals.
2. The Second Vice President shall serve as the Program Chairman. His/Her duties include arranging the banquet speaker as well as the general education classes for the membership. This may from time to time include an American Camellia Society approved judges school.
3. The Secretary shall keep a record of all business proceedings of the Society and be responsible for all mailings to the Society.
4. The Treasurer shall collect all dues, have charge of all funds, and shall pay all duly authorized bills. S/He shall make a financial report at each general meeting and an annual report to the membership at the annual meeting.
5. The Executive Committee shall manage all the affairs of the Society. They shall fill all official vacancies, authorize all expenditures and interpret the Constitution and By-Laws and policies. They shall have the power to suspend or expel any member for cause and to reinstate any member so suspended or expelled. The Executive Committee shall not spend or obligate the Society for payment of monies in excess of the amount on hand in the treasury unless specifically authorized to do so by a vote of the entire membership.

ARTICLE IX - NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION

The Society is incorporated and is not organized for pecuniary profit nor shall it have any power to issue any certificates of stock or declare dividends, and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any individual.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY

Upon dissolution of the society, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the society, dispose of all the assets of the society exclusively for the purposes of the society to such organizations organized and operated exclusively for the promotion of camellias and shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) or (5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Committee shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the County in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization(s) specified above.

ARTICLE XI - I.R.S. COMPLIANCE

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this society will not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by (a) an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law or (b) an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any other corresponding provision of any United States Internal Revenue Law.

Announcement

The Board of Directors has scheduled their required spring meeting at the home of Ben and Marjorie Stands in Columbia, South Carolina, on May 3, 2004. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual barbecue and fund raising auction of the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society. Members will receive notice with details from the President.

Got Animals?

By Richard Mims

Me. "What in the world happened to those Camellia plants? Not only are the leaves chewed but also the limbs are ragged. It looks as if they were direct hits in a summer hailstorm. Oh, I know, you probably grew them in high grass and bush-hogged the area before you remembered they were there."

Him. "No, a herd of deer came through and feasted on them. I walked out to the plants one morning and my heart dropped down to the pit of my stomach when I saw what had happened. I had petted those plants for almost four years and was planning to turn them into many "bucks" this year. Instead, many bucks turned them into something else. Since this happened, you are the first person to walk over to this area of my nursery and even look at those plants."

Me. "Well, I grow camellias as a hobby. I'm looking for about fifty plants with trunks about thumb size to use for grafting stock. I plan to cleft-graft so I'll cut the tops out and only use the roots. This damage by the deer doesn't really ruin the plants for grafting. What really matters to me is the price. I just cannot pay the \$10 price you have on those plants. You

know, when you get to be my age, about the second thing to go is your eyes. If I lose about 50% of those grafts, that means I would be paying \$20 per plant and, you know, I could buy two-year grafts of the varieties I want for that kind of money."

Him. "I tell you what. I would have to pot up and tend to them Japonicas for nigh on to another year; and then those deer might escape me and the other hunters and chew them down again. Let's bargain. Four dollars. You want fifty plants—then, only four dollars. That two-hundred bucks is enough for me to get a shotgun and blast them dad-blamed deer and put 'em in my freezer."

Me. "Sold." That was the close to the conversation I had with a "Market Bulletin" nurseryman about six years ago when I got the "urge" to start growing camellias again after a 26-year hiatus. These understock will produce some of the blooms with which I hope to beat you at the shows this spring.

I introduced this article with this story because many of you have problems with animals—especially deer, moles, voles and mice, and possibly rabbits that gnaw bark, or squirrels that relish

buds as new growth starts or, are actually destroying your crop of seeds. Luckily, I don't. My biggest problem is neighbor's cats. One night cats were playing "hide and seek" and the female must have "hidden" in my greenhouse and a dozen males tried to find her. Undoubtedly, she was eventually found and the chase ensued—overturning many young Camellia plants that were recently repotted and placed on shelves. From the looks of the aftermath, I presume that lots of fun was had by all except me.

What do you do to keep away deer? Dr. Ben Stands who in October saw fourteen in a herd near his home was forced to put a very high fence around his garden. All of you out there who have deer problems write me a note telling how you cope with them.

Now moles and voles I do know a little about NOW. Back in 1999 when my greenhouse was built, half of it was used for planting large reticulatas from the late Jim Pinkerton's collection. Moles loved that moist, porous, humus-rich soil saturated with juicy earthworms. One could just picture the scene down in the ground. The mole would make the trail and other animals, little short-tailed voles were nibbling on chalky-white reticulata roots while they played and chased one another down in the mole trails between the times of sexual activity and multiplying. Ignorant me did what most of you would do. Go down to the feed and seed store, read labels that were manufactured by those who are solely interested in getting your dollar and

buy something called mole poison that just happens to be poisoned peanuts. Well, subsequently, I took master gardener training and found out from Andy Rollins, our Clemson Extension Agent for Kershaw County, that "moles eat worms, insect larvae and other live things." Moles do not eat peanuts or plants or roots; but they are nosy with that little nub of a snout and will "root" around in the plant roots and not only practically unearth plants but expose juicy roots for voles. I learned that voles (with a "v") do eat peanuts AND plants AND roots. These little boogers traipse down under the ground in mole trails and "pig-out" on the exposed roots of our cherished camellias and expose other roots to air that causes them to dry out and die. The peanuts, then, do some good by destroying voles. So, your first step in controlling the vole is to pick up those poisoned peanuts (that triangular looking box with a point that sticks down into the mole hole), use your permanent marker and scratch out the word, "mole" and replace it with the word, "vole." Then use the bait by putting it in the hole to get the vole rather than the mole.

You can also trap voles by making a cup-sized hole in the top of a mole mound. Bait a small mousetrap with a pecan or peanut and place it beside the hole you made. Cover the hole and the mousetrap with a ten-gallon or larger flowerpot. When you walk by, take a peek. You might have a new form of fertilizer—vole.

Better yet, get or borrow an "out-of-doors" cat. To borrow one, just put

out a little food. If the neighbor's cat or a stray cat happens to sashay by, it will find the food. (You might not notice it, but cats do come by fairly often.) Cats dearly love moles and voles and will kill anything else that moves—just for fun. When you keep the cat around a few days and its work is done, instead of giving food, squirt it with the water hose to send it back to its owner to keep it from getting your birds (good animals).

A male mole is a very territorial animal that will fight another male mole to the death if it tries to move into his harem of several females. (There are probably only two to five moles on your property—one male and the others female). If you get rid of the male, many times the females will leave your property and move into another area claimed by a dominant male.

About a year after the experience with moles in my greenhouse, I was very lucky. I was using a pitchfork to fork shavings into a wheelbarrow to put them over black cloth mulch in the end of my greenhouse used for potted camellias. (I keep damp shavings under potted camellias to provide humidity.) Low and behold, the pitchfork came out of the shavings pile with a crusty, mangy looking, big old dominant-male ground mole impaled. I almost cried because I don't like to kill anything. I would rather have captured him and put him in a shoebox or other appropriate container and relocated him a mile or two away. I think the females left my property. Occasionally a bachelor drifter comes by sniffing and finds no

females. He has to cross an acre of hard clay before he gets to the pliable greenhouse soil. He must get a sore nose and leaves for more fruitful territory. I have had no problems since accidentally killing that one old male.

About the only way besides using cats to get moles is to trap them with a mole trap or dig them out yourself. Mole traps with spikes and directions are available at most hardware stores. This is not a task for the squeamish. If you are one of those Camellia growers who would rather sit in a chair than work—sit real still after a spring shower (in the yard) and keep your eyes on the mounded mole feeder trails. Have your garden hoe in your hand and don't vibrate the earth. Have your eyes rove around like you would on July 4th at Myrtle Beach. Look for underground movement (a mole makes feeding trails in damp, pliable soil, out from his main Number 1 trail where you must put a trap if you have a trap and don't mind using a trap). When you see the dirt mounding and sort of crumbling over, rush toward the spot in a sneaky way, chop down between the mole and its Number 1 trail to keep it from escaping, pull the blade of the hoe toward the mole to the end of the feeder trail and pull the mole out of the hole. Now, you got him/her. You can put him/her in a shoebox or other appropriate container and relocate him/her a mile or two away. When my late father saw a mole feeding in his garden, he would jump on the feeding trail between the mole and the Number 1 trail to keep it from escaping, and then proceeded to stomp

down the trail toward the mole. He first used a shovel to witness whether or not his method worked. After a couple times he just avoided a second burial.

Now mice do little more than come in and eat your cottonseed meal. Sometimes we see one of those little boogers that stands on hind legs and looks at you with those doe-like, full-moon eyes. This cute little thing with a short tail and glossy fur is called a cotton mouse. We don't have to worry about that one because the bubonic plague it can carry doesn't hurt the Camellias.

Rabbits aren't really bad in our Atlantic Coast area. They do most damage in areas that stay covered with snow. Not being able to get food on the ground, rabbits resort to nibbling bark off trees. The cure? Remember, rabbit tastes very good and can be fried up just like good, crispy chicken. Does anyone have the Colonel's secret recipe?

Those varmints with a proper name of squirrel mean destruction with a capital D. Hybridizing people, especially, must protect special crossed camellia seeds to keep them from being buried for winter squirrel food. For those of you who live in cities where squirrels are protected, it seems like their sheer numbers will allow them to take over the world. One got down a chimney at a friend's house and literally ate much of two wooden blinds before my friend discovered it and chased it out a door. (By the way, squirrel damage is not covered by homeowner's insurance.)

For the solution to the squirrel problem, we must learn a lesson from the past to keep us from suffering in the future. We know that the World War II and before generations in the South used squirrel for food. A great delicacy was the marble-sized brain fried in hog lard. Should you start your grandchildren on going back to our old ways and begin using squirrel meat for food, those grandchildren could save money on groceries, enjoy eating squirrel, and in turn teach future generations to eat squirrel as our grandparents did. Who knows, a shortage of wild squirrels might occur which would solve our camellia seed disappearance problem. The biggest fault with this solution would be that our grandchildren might start using our greenhouses to raise squirrels instead of Camellias.

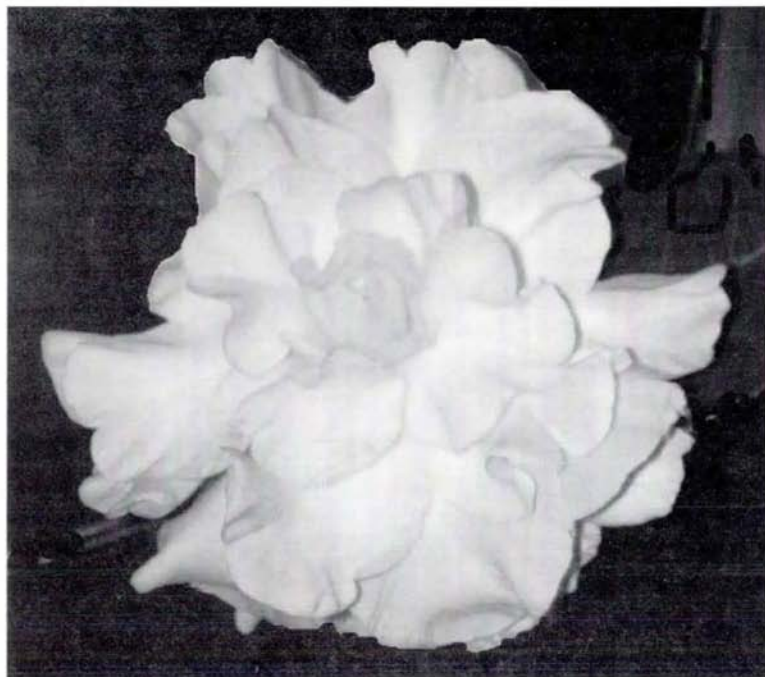
Actually, wildlife experts recommend that squirrels never be relocated as they might spread disease. The experts do recommend trapping. The best solution for getting rid of trapped squirrels is to find hunters or other persons who do eat squirrels. Wildlife people don't make the following recommendation but I do. It's always best to use a wire, submersible trap.

Now, we'll address those pesky beavers. I've only seen one Camellia bush near a large lake cut down by a beaver. For those camellia growers who live near a lake or have a lake on your property and face this problem, you can control this by becoming acquainted with the beaver. (I have given the following method lots of thought.) I understand that when the beaver builds its dam, it locates an

entrance hole under the bottom of the dam and enters the hole under water. It is said that the hole is usually large enough for a man or woman to enter. (We must be gender perfect.) The best way to capture the beaver is to swim down and under and into the beaver's den and throw salt under its tail. This puts it into a hypnotic state so you can pull the beaver out by the tail, put him/her in a shoebox or other appropriate container and relocate him/her a mile or two away. Just be careful not to wear brightly colored bathing suits to scare them out of their den before you get there. The best color bathing suit for catching beavers is the color nude. If you can't find a nude suit, then the next best thing...—

well, we won't go there. If you don't get the beaver and the beaver gets you, it could be catastrophic and require a trip to the emergency room. Actually, your state wildlife department has experts who will come to your property, trap the beaver(s) and relocate them for you. It only takes a telephone call.

If you are as tired of reading this author's junk as I am, rob him of page space by submitting an article for the next issue of *Atlantic Coast Camellias*. If you don't write, I've heard that he has run out of stories on Camellias and plans to write about alligators and snakes.



Ruta Hagmann

Shall We Share Camellia Knowledge?

(Rewrite of an article published in
Carolina Camellias. Vol. XXX, Fall, 1978, No. 2)

By Richard Mims

Appreciation of the beautiful flower, Camellia, can be greatly enhanced by a better understanding of its growth. The key to growing good camellias is adequate maintenance. The spectacular fall and winter yard displays and those gorgeous, unbelievable, specimen blooms displayed at Camellia shows do not get there by accident. Much "TLC" in the forms of feeding, watering, spraying and pruning must be done throughout the year.

As is true of God's great universe, even our wisest people will never fully understand everything. Nevertheless, study and research will continue and fascinating new Camellia secrets will be discovered. Our knowledge can always be improved. Remember the excitement in the Camellia world when the effect of gibberelic acid on camellia blooms was discovered? The work being done on hybridizing and the discovery of so many species in recent years is amazing. Thanks to the dedication of Dr. Clifford Parks and others, more and more hybrids are growing and blooming in northern climes?" Haven't you put it on your "must have list" and marveled over the new true yellow formal double bloom from Japan, "Kagarohi?" Exciting indeed. One only has to read publications of other groups and ours, *Atlantic Coast Camellias*, *The Camellia Review*, *The*

Gulf Coast Camellian, *The Southeastern Camellia Digest*, *The American Camellia Society Journals*, or *The American Camellia Society Yearbook* to enjoy in a few minutes summaries and reviews of what fellow enthusiasts have spent months, years, or lifetimes studying. The mentioned publications are probably the best "How-to" sources in existence concerning camellias. Articles on propagation, fertilization, disease treatments, preparation for shows, and you name it, are to be found in many issues.

What I am moving toward in all this chatter is to remind each member that s/he belongs to an organization called The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Your by-laws include such purposes as: to stimulate and extend appreciation of Camellias; to encourage and promote the science and art of Camellia culture; to bring together in friendship and fellowship those interested in camellias; and very importantly, to develop, acquire, and disseminate information concerning the Camellia and its origin, history, and culture. These tasks are not the duties of just your officers and editor, but the duties of each member. Each member should work hard to shoulder his/her share.

Members of the ACCS have chosen to use the major share of their dues to publish *Atlantic Coast Camellias*. If

you are like me, you eagerly look forward to the day you receive it. Other camellia growers would probably appreciate the magazine as much as you do— if they only knew about it. Would you please take an hour or two of your time to tell several friends about your camellia society and show them copies of *Atlantic Coast Camellias*? How else will people who love Camellias find out that the organization and publication exist? Using the membership form is the first step in giving your friends a worthy, new social outlet.

In past issues we had a few reprints. A new article from each state in our group should come in at least once annually. Do your part in making this happen. Let's all work together to share camellia knowledge through promoting our Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, the American Camellia Society, and the other regional societies. Do this through new memberships and through the contribution of your knowledge to their journals.

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Membership Dues

9/1/03 - 8/31/04

Single or double

\$12.50

Name _____ Spouse _____

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Send to: ACCS, Mrs. Bonnie Serpas, 229 Green St., Santee, SC 29142

(Do you believe in recycling? Recycle this application by giving it to someone who appreciates Camellias.)

'Twas A Camellia Show

By Richard Calvin Mims
with help from Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before the show while in the greenhouse
The creatures were poisoned and all the slugs soused.
The leaves were clothes-pinned from blooms with care,
Careful not to bruise, not on a dare.

There hung the camellias—pinks, whites and reds,
While visions of show winners danced in our heads.
The gib had moved up, while in the sap,
And the flowers had opened as if on tap.

When viewed through leaves, Wow! Such a flower!
I knew at a glance, it was "Helen Bower,"
Away toward that flower without blinking a lash,
Tripping on a pot and making a great crash.
While on the ground a glimpse of an "Evelyn Poe"
With sheen as soft as new fallen snow.

Then as my grateful eyes did stare
Over there, "Elegans Champagne" did appear.
The darkness had moved down black and quick,
I knew it was time—I must start to pick.
The more blooms picked—more, in sight came;
Winning sweepstakes must be the name of the game.

Now Mizzell! now Smelley! now Lawrence and Mixon
On Fetterman! on Robertson! on Watson and Dickson!
Let's compete to the end! Newsome and Hardwick must
"be on the ball"
Now admire those magnificent blossoms and pick them all.

Polish leaves to glisten as sun on the rye
Picky judges might use them to break a tie.
So pack blooms in cotton in orchid tubes too,
Add some ice, you must usually chill them through.

And then—load your boxes, this is no spoof
Get to the show by car, plane or hoof.
Unload your boxes and look all around
Flowers much better than yours deceptively abound.

Groom the flowers because "as is" is moot;
Carefully remove black stamens and soot.
Four to six flowers per tray are most to pack
After several shows you soon get the knack.

Put those Camellias out—a feast for the eye—some red as a berry,
"Cherries Jubilee," black red, with leaves like a cherry.
"Sweet Jane," as dainty as a party bow
"Ruffian", "Charlie Bettes", "Leucantha", all white as the snow;
Unschool'd clerks tilt trays while exhibitors grit teeth;
They smile and gently shine another leaf.

Anticipation of winning—a queasy belly
When Head Judge calls with a voice somewhat yelly.
JUDGES! take your places. Work hard as an elf,
Consider all flowers as if you grew them yourself.
On flowers sent up, use your head
Deserving blooms judged by all leaves nothing to dread.

Upon considering, speak not a word, just vote and work;
The show will flow without a quirk.
When the judging is called to a close
Check the head table to see Camellias that are yours.

You may be happy, you might even whistle;
You might be as grumpy as if you had stepped on a thistle.
Don't grumble, and blame the judges if all isn't right,
Win a show next week and have a great night!



Nuccio's Bella Rosa

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