

Atlantic Coast Camellia

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Award of Merit
To
E. Hulyn Smith (right)
On September 25, 2004

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Award of Merit

E. Hulyn Smith

Presented September 25, 2004

The 2004 Award of Merit from the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society is presented to E. Hulyn Smith for his dedication and enthusiastic support of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, as well as many other societies, both national and international to which he belongs. Hulyn was very active in the founding of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society and served as our first president. His leadership is one reason we are here today, and he continues to serve whenever needed. Hulyn is President-Elect of the American Camellia Society and has spent much of his time on research and development of camellias. He never turns you down on a request for a camellia program and is always willing to share information and new techniques on propagation and growing camellias. Hulyn is also very devoted to all his family, especially those grandchildren, his church and his community. He and Janet always open their home, garden and greenhouses to visitors, be they local, regional, national as well as international. Hulyn is always recruiting and is an inspiration for many of us here. We are all very fortunate to know you and share your legends in the camellia world. One trait we will always remember you by is, "That is a nice red flower, but think what it would be like variegated." Thank you for being the camellia person that you are.

Front Cover: John Newsome presenting plaque to E. Hulyn Smith at the ACCS September 2004 meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC.

IN THIS ISSUE

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Award of Merit.....inside front cover	
List of Officers.....	2
List of Directors.....	3
President's Message..... by Lee Poe, Jr.	4
Thanks to Jim Lively..... by Mildred Robertson	6
Membership Form.....	7
Grafting Camellias: A Pictorial Guide..... by P. Iain Hall under the guidance of grandfather, Richard Mims	8
The Restoration of the Sam Borum Camellia Gardens at Yeamans Hall Club, Hanahan, South Carolina..... by Jordan Jack	18
Scenes from Myrtle Beach, September 2004..... Photos contributed by William Wyatt and Richard Mims	22

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President's Message

By Lee Poe, Jr.

As I sit here writing you this message, I am looking forward to Christmas here in Aiken with all of my family. When you read this message it will be in mid January and we will be at the beginning of our winter camellia show season. Before getting to that I want to go back a few months to remind all of us what ACCS has been doing and talk about all of the fall camellia blooms and shows.

The fall hurricane season had a significant impact on camellias and our camellia friends. For example, one of the hurricanes kept our past president from attending the ACCS Convention at Myrtle Beach in September and performing his last official job as ACCS President. We missed Bob and Gail. As with everything, no single person can affect the whole. In my opinion we had a wonderful convention. It was well attended, the technical programs were quite good and the Saturday night general meeting was fun for all. Our guest speaker, Cindy Watson, was very informative. I would like to announce that ACCS membership has increased slightly over the past couple of years. The auction and raffle brought in \$3,500 dollars this year. This meeting was a joint meeting of ACCS and the American Camellia Society. ACS meets with ACCS periodically. We had a good joint convention and were pleased to see many from the ACS at our convention. Each society conducts its separate meetings but enjoys each

other's presence in the hotel and during joint meetings. I will not go on further about the meeting since it is described and seen in more detail in other parts of the Journal.

Camellias have been phenomenal this fall. Many bloomed much earlier than normal. My garden has been full of beautiful camellias. *Pink Perfection*, to mention one, has had many blooms and I normally do not get it to bloom until mid-February. If only my camellias bloomed for the shows as they have done this fall. Oh well if mine did bloom extra well I expect my competition would also have excellent blooms so the competition would still be strong. After all that is part of the point of exhibiting blooms, the remainder is greeting all of our old friends. I think friends are the most important part of the ACCS.

I went with a friend to his birthplace, which is still his mother's home, to help him identify and put names on the camellias in the side and back yard. These camellias, as he remembered them, were mature plants when he lived there. It was fun looking at camellias that had foraged for themselves for about forty years, survived encroachment from other plants, etc. for this time period and still were in full bloom. The *Governor Moutons*, *Debutantes*, and *Alba Plena* were spectacular. In addition to seeing the old camellias, I learned lots about the history of that part of our country.

Last week we here in Aiken had temperatures of about 20°F and the lovely camellias, which were in full bloom, are now brown. I don't think brown camellias are very pretty. But all is not lost. I remembered that the camellia bush is a good indication of outside temperature. Look at your plants each morning as the sun comes up and see if you cannot use them to tell the temperature. I find that mine allow me to tell how cold it is by the color of the plants and how the leaves fold around the stems. I can tell the temperature within a couple of degrees. I look at the plants and make my judgment on how cold it is outside then look at the thermometer. After a few days, I find that I can tell the temperature with reasonable accuracy.

The greenhouse flowers do not suffer from the weather extremes. I have pretty blooms in the greenhouse even though the temperature again last night returned to the low twenties. It is nice to be able to go out and walk through the greenhouse during this cold weather. I say walk through the greenhouse, I can hardly get into the greenhouse. I have so many plants it is crowded there. Dot and I put all of the yard plants in the green house to save them. I love it though.

I have had and took the opportunity to speak to garden clubs, at a Master Gardeners Symposium, and other gardening related organizations on camellias. I consider it very important to spread the knowledge of camellias. I hope each of you takes an opportunity to address gardening

people on camellias. Many have one or two camellias in their yard and know very little about them or how to take care of them. Lets all try to spread our camellia knowledge. At each talk I make I try to inform those listening about the Aiken Camellia Show and the local camellia organization. I had the opportunity to travel to Thomson, GA to conduct a Master Gardeners Symposium. Several of us from Aiken went and they had about forty gardening type people in attendance. Thomson has been a camellia center since 1913 when they adopted the title "The Japonica City of the South." The name was changed to "Camellia City of the South" during World War I. There are many camellias in yards in Thomson. With the passing of the old guard camellia culture has diminished somewhat. Like in Aiken, many of the original home owners have passed on and their camellias were left to newcomers with little knowledge of camellia culture. The symposium was well received and I can only hope many of the attendees will become "camellia people."

In closing, let me stress, as Bob Reese did last year, that we need the support of all members to make the society prosper. Due to inflation and program additions, convention costs are up from past years. The funds the auction and raffle bring in become more important to ACCS. Bob requested that members air layer and graft plants and bring them for sale at the auction. I, also, would like to stress that form of increased funding for our society.

Thanks to Jim Lively

By Mildred Robertson

Here is some information on the items we had for our raffle this year. As in the past, some of our members have come through for us.

Lou Bryant donated a print from her late mother's collection and Ogle Hesse did another painting for us. He has done this for a number of years, and we really appreciate his contributions as well as those of Lou and all the other people who have contributed over the years.

This year we have one really special item. In early June of this year, I received a call from Jim Lively from Nashville. He told me that he had two camellia paintings done by the late Anne Hackney he would like to donate to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society for raffle items. Without

hesitation, I gratefully accepted them and told him how much it would mean to us since Son and Anne (now deceased) had been such special members of our society.

For those of you who are new to the society, Son and Anne were great camellia growers, exhibitors and judges. Son had the original idea and vision for a regional camellia society on the Atlantic Coast. He discussed his ideas with many people and was the person who made the calls and set up the first organizational meeting. Without his vision and dedication, we would not be what we are today. Anne stood by and supported him in whatever way was needed. In my opinion, they were Mr. and Mrs. Camellia.



At our first convention of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society which was in Myrtle Beach on September 13, 1980, Anne donated two camellia paintings to be raffled as a pair. The purpose of this was to help raise funds to get our fledgling organization off the ground. The paintings were won by Jim Lively and he has now so generously donated them back to us.

One is a *Leanne's Tomorrow* and the other is a *Charlie Bettes*. Each painting will stand on its own and because of this and with Jim's permission, we raffled one this year and will save the other one until next year when we will be celebrating our

25th anniversary. This year we will be selling raffle tickets on the *Leanne's Tomorrow*. I believe that Anne would be very proud her camellia paintings have come back home and are still being used for the purpose which she intended.

I have thanked Jim for his generous donation but want to again do so publicly and tell him how very appreciative we are. I had hoped he would be at the convention with us. But he reminded me that he is 84 years-old now and doesn't get around quite as much as he did in the past.

THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

We are a society who wants more members to help us promote the science of Camellia culture by exchanging knowledge and ideas with Camellia specialists, provide information about shows and social events and join us at our annual meeting in Myrtle Beach in September or October each year. Annual dues are \$12.50 per year for singles or couples. A membership entitles you to a journal published in Spring, Summer and Fall. To join, send your check and personal information for receiving communications and journals to ACCS, Bonnie Serpas, 229 Green Street, Santee, SC 29142.

Membership Dues

ACCS Dues 9/1/04 - 8/31/05 Single or Double \$12.50

Names(s) _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone No.: Area Code _____ Phone No. _____

E-Mail: _____

Grafting Camellias

A Pictorial Guide

By P. Iain Hall under the guidance of grandfather, Richard Mims

The optimum period to graft is during February.



Items needed:

**Established understock in pots
or in ground**

Cutting or Scion

Pruning shears

Small saw

Sharp/Razor knife

Small hammer

Screwdriver

Rubberband

Pruning Paint/bleach & water

Sand

2-liter bottle w/ bottom cut off

Tag or Name Marker

**Fungicide or Bleach (9-1
solution)**



**Clean understock with rag soaked in fungicide or bleach solution.
Cut off plant of understock about 2 to 3 inches above the ground.**



Make sure the top of the stump is smooth.



Split the stump long enough to receive scion with knife tapped down with hammer.



Insert screwdriver to hold split open.



Choose cutting/scion from desired variety.



Cut off all but two leaves.



Cut those two leaves in half.



Trim stem of scion into a wedge three-fourths to one inch long.



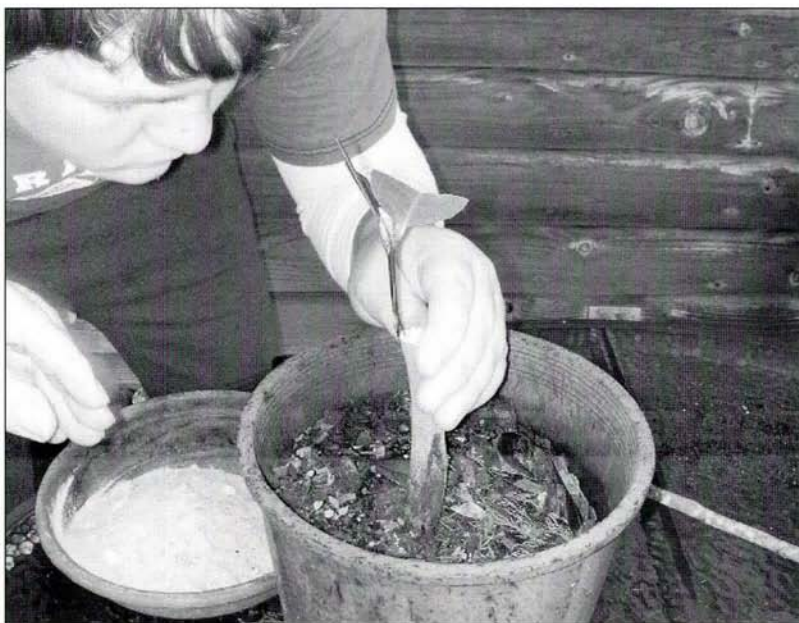
Scion ready to graft.



Pry understock open slightly by twisting screwdriver and insert wedge scion.



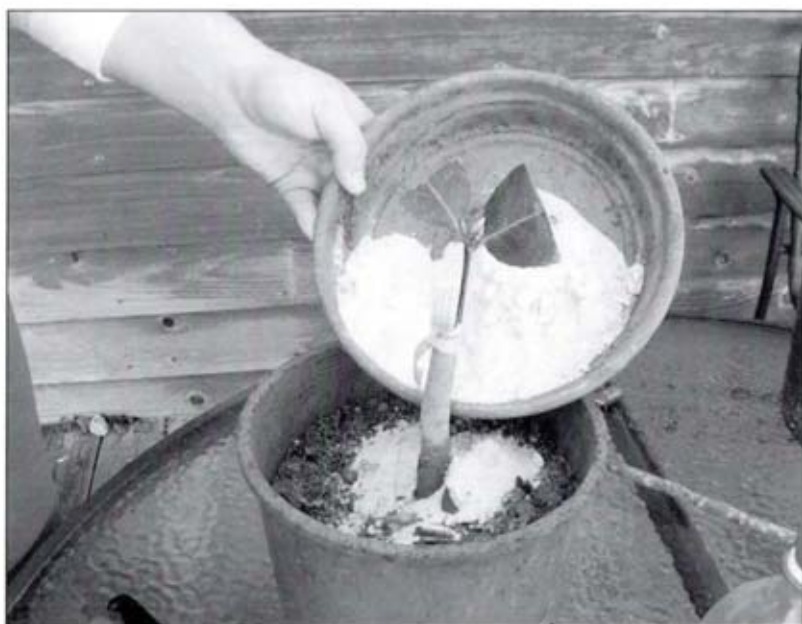
Carefully remove screwdriver.



Be sure cambium layers on both points of contact of the cutting/scion and the understock are aligned as closely as possible. Most grafters make certain cambium layers cross by pushing the top toward the center of the rootstock causing the bottom of the scion to stick out enough to catch with a fingernail.



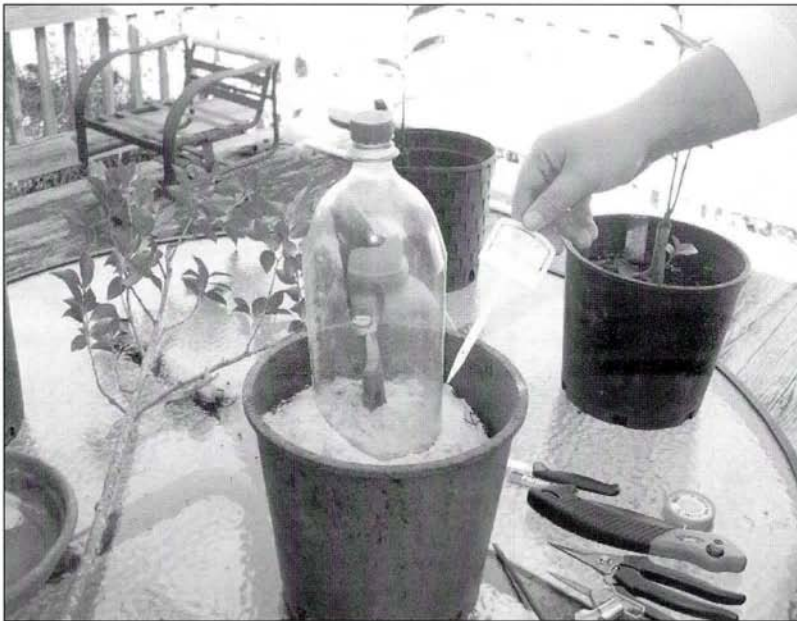
**Tie the rubberband around the stump to hold cutting/scion in place.
(Callusing action tends to push a scion out.)**



Pour sand around the graft to support 2-liter bottle.



Place 2-liter bottle over finished graft and press into sand. This will protect graft and help keep moisture around the plant.



Place marker with camellia name in the pot. Keep soil moist. Coat cut area of understock with fungicide, or with a solution of 6 parts water to 1 part bleach.



Be sure to remove any new growth from the understock.



This is a one-year graft.

The Restoration of the Sam Borum Camellia Gardens at Yeamans Hall Club, Hanahan, South Carolina

By Jordan Jack

Sam Borum is remembered for his great love for and knowledge of the genus *Camellia* L. Sam was an ardent grower and a pioneer collector. For many years he was head of the buildings and grounds department at Yeamans Hall Club (YHC) in Hanahan, South Carolina located on Goose Creek, 10 miles north of Charleston. From World War II until the early 1970s, he also ran a commercial camellia nursery on the YHC grounds which surrounded his home. In Sam's nursery were over 500 "mother plants" of more than 150 cultivars which provided a rich supply of scions and air-layers for him to propagate and sell. The "mother plants" were the bones of special, attractive gardens that also included such botanical favorites as azaleas, native dogwoods, red buds, kumquats, and even rhododendrons. Around the home, a rainbow of colors from spring-flowering bulbs lined many of the pathways beneath the towering, moss-draped oaks and glimmering pine trees that provided the canopy for shading the camellias.

When age and the lack of strength to care for the plants caught up with Sam, his garden was abandoned. No weeding, watering, fertilizing, spraying for wee bugs and beasties took place – absolutely no care at all was given to the garden for over 30 years. Rapidly growing undergrowth and indigenous seedling trees and brush

encroached. The unchecked growth and intense shade wreaked havoc on the grafted plants. Some lost their tops and the less desirable understock flourished. On many good varieties that remained, suckers grew from the understock and merged with the more desirable grafts.

During the winters, Bennett, my wife, and I enjoy the pleasure of living at Yeamans Hall Club and have done so now for over 25 years. We have become somewhat active in the local Coastal Carolina Camellia Society (CCCS) and have joined the American Camellia Society (ACS) and the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS). For many years I visited the late Mr. Borum's garden—or rather visited the "jungle" the garden had become. We always managed to forage a delightful range of camellia flower varieties that still bloomed in spite of all the competition from other plants. Thirty plus years had taken its toll on the name tags on the plants. Of the very few left, some were not readable and others were taken by animals or birds or just lost to the elements. Mr. Borum was careful in keeping all the plants labeled. He knew the names or numbers of all his "little camellia children" including known cultivars and those seedlings he hybridized himself. I went through the gardens several times in the winters of 2001 and 2002 and placed name tags on the

cultivars with which I was familiar.

In 2003, Tom Johnson, Horticulturist for the American Camellia Society at Massee Lane Gardens headquarters in Fort Valley, Georgia visited YHG and recognized the potential there. Our grounds committee chairman, Ed Crawford, too, realized that these once beautiful old gardens cried out for attention to again unleash their beauty in the cold of the winter. He realized that these gardens should be restored and, once again, become one of the premier Camellia gardens in the southeastern United States.

The decisions were made and the big job began. The Club's grounds crew came in during the summer of 2002 and did an excellent job in removing the undergrowth and indigenous tree and brush growth. Baring the good plants gave us a realistic idea of what was ahead in order to rejuvenate the Camellias and to renew the gardens. The Camellias, in their search for golden sunlight to show off their magnificent blooms had grown leggy, without low branches and straight up – similar to bean poles.

I spoke with Ed Crawford and asked him if he and the grounds committee would want me to invite some of our CCCS friends to hold work-days and come over and help "hands-on" in the garden. It could also help new members of the Society learn more about Camellias. Many members who dearly love the Camellia as a flower and have tremendous knowledge about Camellia culture might not only help identify many

more cultivars but also help with expert instruction in getting the necessary pruning started. We figured we needed a "carrot" to tempt these good people to the garden. We offered access to all the scions that CCCS members who helped wanted from Mr. Borum's camellia gardens and told them they could air-layer any varieties for their personal collections. In late fall 2003, and spring 2004, a number of my CCCS friends came in. As was anticipated, these members identified many cultivars and began pruning for the rejuvenation of the plants. Mountains of pruned branches were piled for the grounds crew to haul away. About 40% of the gardens were given their first pruning in 30 years. Many cultivars now sported bright, new name labels. Miles Beach did a find job leading this effort.

In spring 2004, several of us air-layered a number of plants and were very successful when the air layers were removed and potted in fall 2004. I have ten new varieties from air-layers that will be taken to our summer home outside of Asheville for proper watering and fertilizing this summer before returning them to our YHC home in fall 2005.

During the summer of 2004, the gardens were given their first fertilizing and spraying in 30 years by the Club grounds crew. With Mother Nature's rain and a full year of TLC, the gardens are starting to give a real hint of what they will be in the near future. New growth is much more vigorous than in previous years.

In November 2004, another pruning session was held with both CCCS and YHC members participating. A number of additional bushes were identified and labeled. By the end of the session, the gardens were now about 60% pruned. Progress is really being made. (Editor's note: Hopefully, any severe pruning was left to be done in late winter and early spring when recovery of severely pruned camellias is more successful – at least in locations colder than Charleston.)

One lovely miniature, *Pearl's Pet*, had a *Sasanqua* reversion from its root stock that was a tree almost four inches in diameter – twice the diameter of the trunk of the 40-50 year-old graft of the *Pearl's Pet* bush itself. I could hardly wait to get my chainsaw on that *Sasanqua* tree to make a landscape specimen of that beautiful miniature Camellia.

At this work session we also tagged inferior plants for future grafting which might also become a "hands on" project for the clubs. Who knows? We might get YHC members interested in CCCS, ACCS, and ACS. Growing and caring for Camellias can become a healthful and mind-pleasing hobby.

After the bright and sunny, crisp fall day in the Sam Borum Camellia Gardens, all workers enjoyed a cookout at our home. A burger and a beer tasted rather good after three hours of work. And, after all, socializing is a major thing with people interested in camellias.

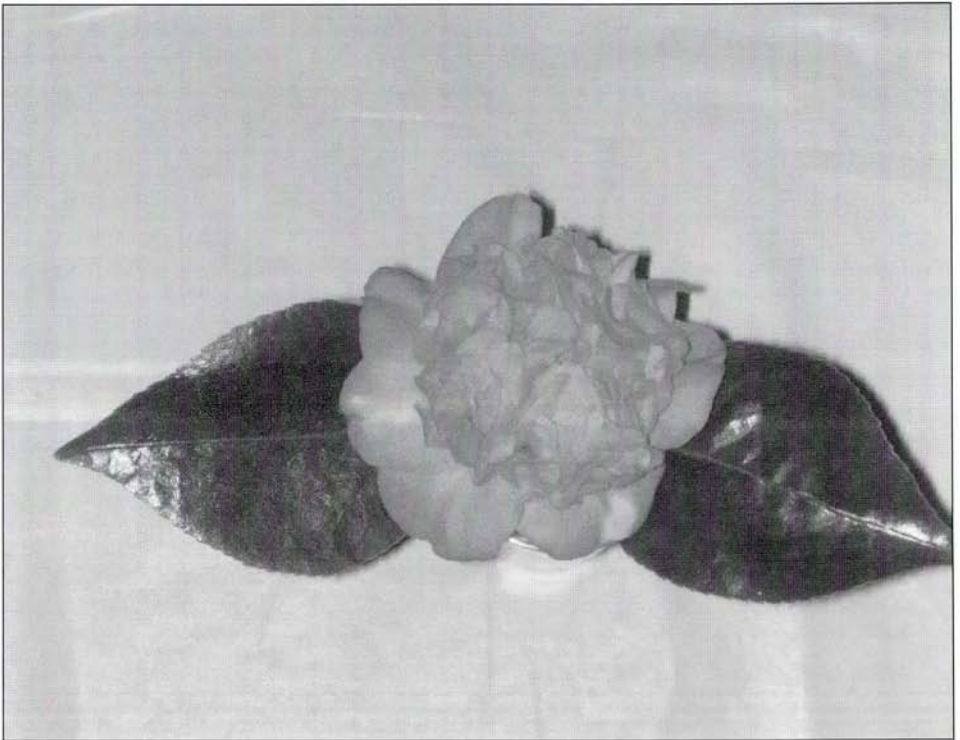
Sandra's Computerized Camellia Photos were advertised in the ACS Camellia Journal in December 2004. For a Christmas present, the wife of Bob Williams, one of my CCCS friends gave him a copy of this computer program for identifying Camellias. Early in January, Bob brought over his laptop computer to try out the program for the first time. The identification program was surprisingly easy to use based on being able to call up flowers by size, color and bloom characteristics. A problem was that bright light caused glare on the laptop screen. Bob decided that next time a piece of black fabric draped over the computer might work to show color more clearly. If not, we will take blooms inside for viewing.

I believe that we still need about two more sessions of heavy pruning and another summer or two with well-scheduled fertilizing and spraying for bushes in this wonderful old garden to regain desired shape and vigor. After that, care can become routine. New growth was rampant last summer and buds are everywhere and (now in January) are starting to explode. We anticipate that Camellia lovers will continue to seek scions for propagation in August and to help us seasonally with the upkeep of the Camellia bushes. In years to come, many of the fine old-fashioned types of Camellias that have gone out of commercial production will be propagated by us.

The work of the Grounds Committee and the Camellia Club uncovered a rewarding and unexpected surprise! Knowledgeable CCCS friends spotted

unique blossoms that were surely new varieties not registered with the American Camellia Society. Seedlings were found that still sported numbers that identified them as controlled crosses made by Mr. Borum. One in particular was labeled Borum C-8. Miles Beach, an accredited ACS judge, told us that "C-8" was certainly good enough to register and suggested the name, "Yeamans Beauty." It is a lovely, large, semi-double, late season bloomer with a soft pink bloom, suffused with darker pink stripes. Another "number only" seedling was found while running the computer program.

We are now searching for information on the whereabouts of any of Mr. Borum's notes. I plan to write to Mr. Borum's son to find out any information he might have on the gardens. Next year, using any information he might provide, we will make a map of these wonderful old gardens showing the location of each Camellia bush and other plants. When the map is done and an alphabetical list is made indicating location, these gardens can become a source of scions for grafting purposes for Camellia collectors in the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.



Pearl's Pet

Scenes from Myrtle Beach

September 2004

Pictures contributed by William Wyatt and Richard Mims



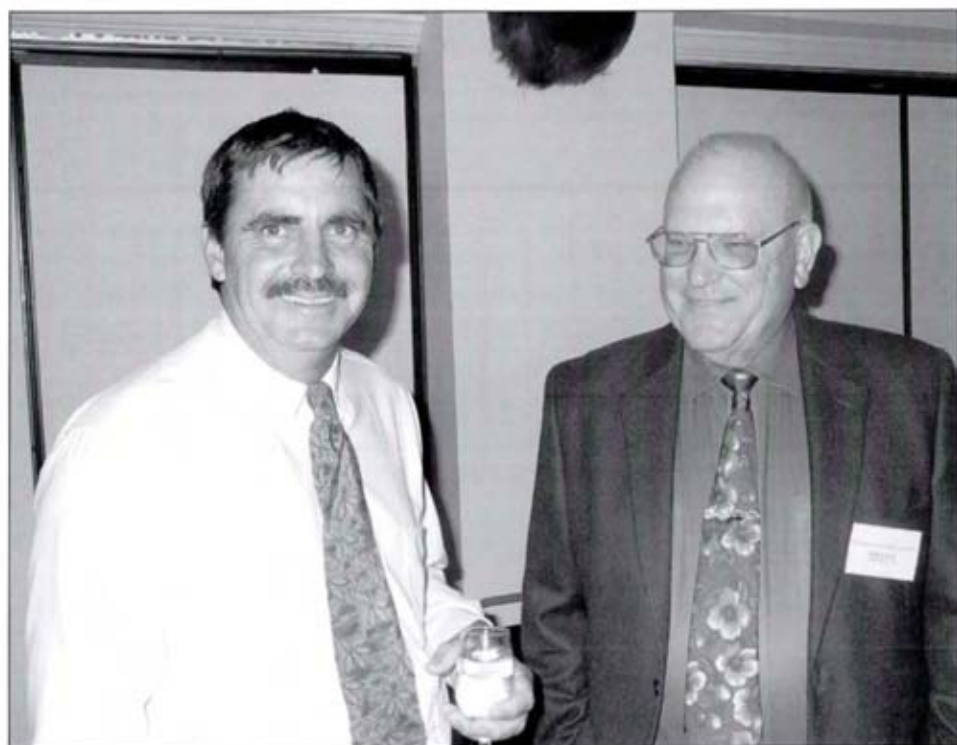






















Black Magic

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Sweet Jane

Camellias