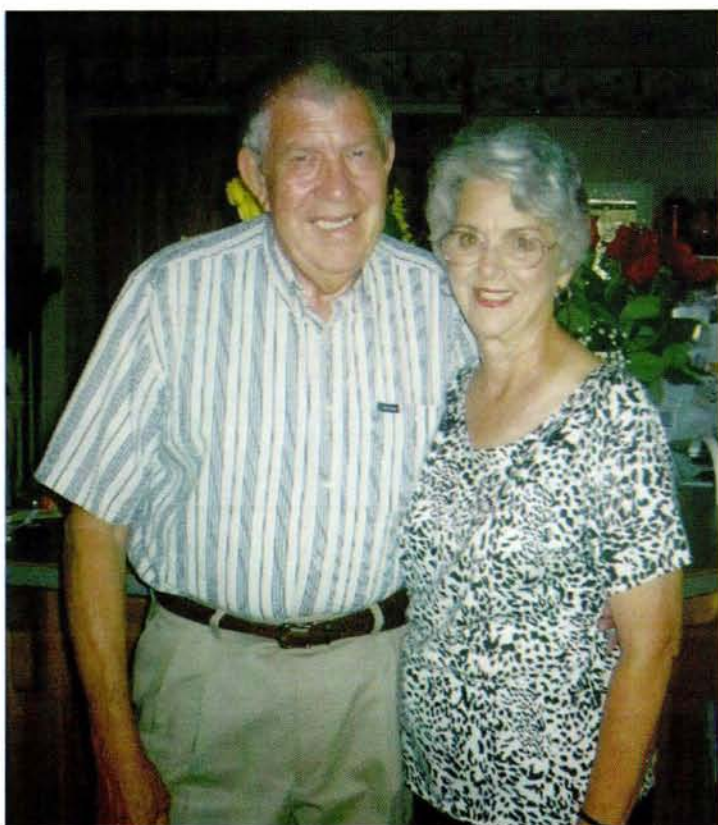


# *Atlantic Coast Camellias*

*Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society*



***Bill and Mildred Robertson***  
***Recipients of the ACCS 2006 Award of Merit***

## ***Atlantic Coast Camellia Society 2006 Award of Merit***

### ***Bill and Mildred Robertson***

The 2006 Award of Merit from the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society is presented to Bill and Mildred Robertson for their dedication and continued support of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, the American Camellia Society and the Aiken Camellia Society. They are both charter members of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society and Mildred is a past president and is presently serving as the secretary. Bill is a past president of the South Carolina Camellia Society and was a Director of the SCCS when the ACCS was formed in 1980. Since the beginning, Mildred has shared her many talents with ACCS from researching and writing our history to decorating for the banquet. And as you know, Bill is one half of the famous "Buck and Bill Show". Bill and Mildred for many years have been a mainstay in the Aiken Camellia Society serving in many capacities as show chairman and chairman of judges. Throughout the years they have also supported many shows in the southeast with their beautiful camellia blooms.

It is with great pleasure we present you with the 2006 Award of Merit.

Front Cover: Bill and Mildred Robertston

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There is a splendid kind of justice in the camellia's performance—it rarely permits us to reap where we have not sown. In short, learn how your camellia was meant to grow in nature, try to give it those conditions as nearly as you can. Then, sit back and enjoy your plants, for you cannot grow camellias—they grow by themselves.

Mrs. W.A. Miller, Jr., Camellian, November 1956

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## **Join NOW!**

**(Membership is a great gift for friends and family!!!)**

### **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**

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#### **Membership Form**

**ACCS Dues      9/1/05-8/31/06      Single or Double      \$12.50**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number (include Area Code):** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Obituaries

### Thomas Knox

Tom Knox established the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award which is presented by the American Camellia Society to the originator of an outstanding seedling of *Camellia reticulata* or hybrid with *C. reticulata* parentage. This is a plaque presented on the recommendation of the Exhibition and Awards Committee. The permanent cup remains at the ACS headquarters.

Tom and his wife, Shirley, were also great supporters of the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society. A highlight of the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society's spring show was the Charlotte Knox Memorial Award given by Tom and Shirley for the best Valentine Day bloom.

(The following excerpted from The State, Tuesday, September 12, 2006)

Thomas Pressly Knox Jr., 90, passed away Sunday, September 10, 2006, at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Born Sept. 19, 1915 in Neeses, S.C., he was a son of the late Thomas Pressly Knox Sr. and Juddie Chaplin Knox.

His amazing life was filled with learning, adventure, music, reading, hunting and fishing, gardening and travel - all things he cherished and shared generously with his family and friends. As a child and young man, he played the violin.

Tom lived his life with the belief that he was extremely blessed and felt compelled, with a humble heart, to share his many blessings with others. He will be remembered and missed by all who knew him.

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### Jim Holler

Jim Holler (Dr. James Carlisle Holler, Jr.) of Rock Hill, SC died Saturday, December 23, 2006.

The funeral service was held on December 27 at St. John's Methodist Church.

Jim was a member of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society for many years. He and his wife, Lura, were on judging teams as American Camellia Society accredited judges for many years.

Not only will Jim be missed in his community but also by the many boards and associations on which he served. We in the "camellia world" grieve the loss of a dear friend.

# President's Message

John Newsome

Winter is approaching as I write my first President's Message for the Journal. So far the fall has been very mild and the shows have been about par and the quality of the blooms has been outstanding. The dry summer hasn't had much effect except possibly slowing the blooming process.

As most of you know, when we were at Myrtle Beach for the September meeting, we were surprised to see that the Sandcastle property is being pre-sold for condominiums and when 80% are committed it will be torn down. We went ahead and planned for the 2007 meeting since the management feels it will take that long or longer to complete the 80% process. In the meantime, we are looking at alternative locations in that area. It might be time for a change and we will keep you updated on the progress.

For those of you that are also members of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, their fall Journal listed the next Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Meeting as September 21-22, 2007.

These dates are incorrect. The correct date for the ACCS meeting is September 13-14, 2007. Bonnie has notified their editor to please correct this in their Journal in the next issue. The Gulf Coast had asked us to move our date back one week to give two weeks between our meeting and their meeting. So, we moved back, to September 13-14 and they moved forward to October 5-6. Please mark your calendars for September 13-14, 2007 in Myrtle Beach. I look forward to seeing you there. Please try to bring a new member or two.

That brings up another subject that needs a lot of attention. Membership. If we want to continue to exist and thrive as a society, we must add some new members. Invite someone to join us for our September meeting!

Best wishes to each of you for 2007 and for the best blooming and showing season ever. I look forward to seeing you on the Show Trail. We must recruit people to join and come to the September meeting.



## Editor's Column

Richard Mims

Exhibiting camellia blooms and helping judge blooms in American Camellia Society sanctioned camellia shows gives me pleasure. I eagerly look forward to the weekends in a far off city, talking and socializing with fellow hobbyists.

Hardly a week passes that my ears do not pick up a helpful tip or hint. Many time the hint or tip might be one I heard before but lost from memory because I didn't use the tip or put it into practice. You know the old saying, "Use it or lose it."

At Valdosta last week, Mark Crawford was showing a lady how to plant a camellia outside that is now growing in a three-gallon container. He told her that after the planting site is prepared, to remove the plant from the container, put it in a hole only as deep as the bottom half of the root ball. Then mound a good porous plant material around the one-half of the root ball above the ground. Settling over the next few years and the growth of camellia plant over the next year or so make the "mounding" hardly noticeable.

What's new about 50%

above ground? Most articles tell you to put top roots at ground level and I had always thought one or two inches above ground level. Obviously this doesn't allow enough for "settling."

In planting areas with poor drainage, beds or berms completely above normal ground level would be best for planting camellias. While visiting South Korea, a common sight was huge squares of soil built up about two feet above water in marshy areas with magnificent stands of growing garlic. Why not camellia islands in low areas?

While talking to Annabelle Fetterman about minimum heat temperature in a greenhouse, she mentioned that she had set her thermostat for heat to come on at 40° F and her camellias seem to be doing better than in past years when the heat came on to keep her house at a higher temperature. "But," she said, "I don't know whether or not the improvement is because of the temperature or other things I have done." Someone else came over and our conversation

ended but my curiosity was aroused. I wondered what other things Annabelle had done.

I called Annabelle on Monday and asked what besides a cooler greenhouse she had done to produce those beautiful blooms she had on the head tables at Jacksonville and Valdosta. She said, "I have removed quite a few pine trees that I think provided too much shade." My curiosity here has caused me to do a little research about shade.

When I built my greenhouse, I asked greenhouse

growers what percent shade cloth should I use because I had no natural shade. I settled with 50 percent and now have used it for the nine years since I rediscovered the camellia growing hobby.

Some of the best comments were in an article by the late Dr. Luther Baxter from Clemson. Dr. Baxter's article has so much information that we have reprinted it following this article..."Camellias Are For Everyone."



Buck and Tyler Mizzell accepting the 2006 Award of Merit for Bill and Mildred Robertson at the ACCS Convention in Myrtle Beach. Presenting the award is John Newsome.

## Camellias Are For Everyone

Luther W. Baxter, Jr.

(reprinted from Carolina Camellias Vol. XXV, Spring 1973, No. 2)

Camellias can be grown and caused to flower in every yard in South Carolina! Most certainly cultivars of *Camellia sasanquas* will bloom in the fall in the upper Piedmont, for at Clemson such "varieties" as Texas Star, Cleopatra, Settsugekka, Maiden's Blush, Jean May, Daydream and literally dozens of others perform beautifully every fall and occasionally Mine-No-Yuki, Crimson Bride, and other late bloomers do very well.

Appreciation is extended to the Horticulture Department, Clemson University, for making the facilities at the Ornamental Trial Gardens available for many of the studies which contributed to the formulation of the ideas herein presented.

Cultivars of many *C. japonica* plants will survive our winters without injury to the vegetative parts. Since our winters are unpredictable, the probability of good flowers in March and April is not good. However, many of these spring varieties respond well to "gibbing" and can be forced to

bloom in the fall. Among these can be listed Rose Hill Red, Rev. John Drayton, Pink Perfection, Kumasaka, Emmett Barnes, Governor Mouton, Doctor Tinsley, Flame, Professor Sargent, Gladys Wannamaker, Lady Clare, and Debutante, to name a dozen. There are unquestionably many others which respond equally well to gibbing and which too can withstand our temperature extremes.

One of the great delights in my own garden has been the results of gibbing the cultivar Debutante. Since it is inherently an early bloomer it responds well by blooming within 40 days after gibbing. Also the size of the flower is enlarged and the color is intensified. This variety grows rapidly and sets buds in abundance. However, it does put out new growth early in the spring and therefore is subject to late spring frosts. Also, the plant is subject to rather severe foliage chlorosis and variegated flowers when it is virus infected. The chlorotic leaf areas are prone to both sun scald and frost injury. There-

fore, it is advisable to use virus-free plants when available.

Since Debutante variegates excessively, this cultivar can be used to index rootstocks for the presence or absence of virus. For example, plants of Mine-No-Yuki, which usually fail to exhibit virus variegation in both leaves and flowers, can be carrying a severe strain of virus which may or may not be objectionable in a rootstock, depending on the variety. Ten to twenty cuttings taken from such a plant and rooted can serve as subsequent stock plants. If the scion shows virus symptoms, the cuttings then can be destroyed, while cuttings taken from another plant used as a rootstock and not transmitting variegation to the Debutante scion can therefore be increased. From a few known indexed plants, virus-free Mine-No-Yuki plants could be propagated and serve as rootstocks from grafting purposes.

Plants of the cultivar Mine-No-Yuki would make excellent under stock (except for the virus) since it rarely is affected by dieback, it is resistant to root rot, it roots easily, and it grows quickly. Furthermore it is winter hardy in the upper Piedmont. Since it blooms so late in the fall, it rarely performs well as a

specimen plant for us.

One serious mistake sometimes made by camellia enthusiasts is to select a camellia site with too much shade. With too dense shade, few flower buds are set, such as on the cultivar Governor Mouton; drought may become a serious problem and the wood tends to be leggy. One advantage of dense shade, however, is the protection afforded against early or late light frosts by the heavier overhead canopies. Some compromise in the amount of shade therefore seems to be necessary in order to balance these opposing effects. Many disease problems are more serious in dense shade and camellias are not an exceptional plant in this respect. For example, *Exobasidium* leaf gall on *Camellia sasanqua* is more serious in the shade. Also, camellia flower blight and dieback are likely to be more serious in dense shade which encourages high humidity, a prerequisite for spore dissemination and survival.

The soils of the piedmont are not inherently fertile, but most are adequate, with fertilization, to support excellent growth. Pines afford excellent shade for *C. japonica* cultivars. Some pine species, however, are subject to a root disease,



little leaf, which is caused by the fungus, *phytophthora cinnamomi*, a soil borne pathogen. Unfortunately, this same fungus causes root rot of many *C. japonica* cultivars and so at times the pine roots support adequate quantities of this fungus which can damage roots of *C. japonica* plants when they are growing on their own roots. Root rot of camellias growing under pines is not a problem on all sites because drainage is a very important factor governing its incidence. In general, good drainage (or planting high) either reduces or eliminates root rot of camellias so that even very susceptible cultivars, such as Pink Perfection on its own roots, can be successfully grown. Occasionally there are certain *C. japonica* cultivars, such as R. L. Wheeler, which seem to perform well in spite of an otherwise poor location, where other *C. japonica* cultivars either die or are seriously stunted.

Another serious mistake made by some growers is to fertilize their plants too heavily. This burns the roots, which makes them susceptible to drought and, in severe cases, the entire plant may be killed. Actually two applications of fertilizer, the first about the first

week of spring and a second the first week of summer, are adequate. The amount should not exceed 500 to 750 lbs. or a 10-10-10 fertilizer or equivalent per acre (about 1 to 1 ½ lb per 100 sq. ft) each time of application. Spread the fertilizer evenly over the area; do not aggregate large quantities near the base of the plant. If fertilization is to be done on an individual plant basis, spread 1 cup of fertilizer for each 1 inch of trunk diameter around the drip line.

For many soils of the Piedmont a method of transplanting camellias I have used may be of some interest. After a site is selected (not too much shade with adequate drainage) I do not dig a hole and remove soil and then replace with a new mixture, but rather, with the aid of a rototiller, mix into the top soil peat moss, bark, sawdust, or a combination of these along with some lime and phosphate. The net effect is to raise the area slightly, depending on the amount of material added (about one bushel), which protects against root rot. The lime and phosphate are thus worked well into the soil where the roots can be encouraged to ramify through the soil. Caution! Do not set the new plant too deeply and be sure to pack the

bottom of the hole so that the plant does not settle. Be sure to water the newly transplanted plants well the first year. Preferably transplant in either October or early March although with special care plants can be transplanted any time of the year. Transplanting camellias between April 1 and October 1 usually leads to severe drought problems, especially the first year until the roots become established.

Pruning camellias is sometimes necessary to shape the plant and, on some of the more aggressive cultivars, to keep them restricted in size. Keep in mind however, that pruning, like grafting, creates a wound through which *Glomerella*, the cause of dieback, can enter. If pruning is required, it should be done during August or September for thinning-out type of during late March or early April for the heading-back type. This timing will facilitate healing and thus maximize the probability of avoiding dieback problems.

For satisfaction from camellias follow these few precautions:

1. Select a good site in partial shade and amend the soil. Do not space plants too closely.
2. Select a healthy dieback – and canker-free cultivar adapted to your region.
3. Transplant correctly at the proper time or provide special care, (watering, shade, mulching in summer, etc.)
4. Fertilize with appropriate amounts at the right time.
5. Prune lower limbs of large plants and keep weeds down to provide good aeration. This practice gives some help in the control of both flower blight and dieback.
6. Irrigate liberally during hot, dry weather.
7. Control scale.
8. Gib *C. japonica* flower buds in August and September for October and November flowering.
9. Avoid lawn mower and other implement wounds, and afford protection against small animals.
10. Learn to graft and increase your favorite cultivars using *C. sasanqua* seedlings as understock and then give these to friends, schools, churches, municipal organizations, etc.
11. Give camellia plants as door prizes at meetings.
12. Think camellias and wear a camellia smile!



# Pruning

Richard Mims

Camellias are treasured not only for the multiplicity of spectacular blooms in many forms from single to the formal double but also for cold weather blooming, shiny leaves, landscaping versatility and long-lived beauty of the shrub which through the years grows into a small tree. The words above, long-lived and tree, causes work for most camellia growers—the work of pruning.

Many camellia owners have “happened” upon camellias by purchasing or inheriting property with camellias planted by past generations. Others have lived long enough to have twenty to fifty year-old plantings. Generations ago in an agricultural economy, land was plentiful and yards were larger. Large camellias, then, were not a problem. In fact, value was placed upon size and owners were reluctant to cut any “wood” with the flowers. Even pruning was a no no.

In the present day, there are farms and estates that are chopped up into lots with room for a home, usually a fence, and a “tight” landscape. Usually the lot with the old house is the lot

with the old, large camellias.

(Note: For greenhouse growers, the greenhouse stays the same size but the plants grow and something has to give... either build another house or get rid of plants, or prune.)

Naturally yards pleasing to the eye (good proportional landscaping) are desirable. Hired professional landscapers mostly want old plantings “bull dozed” and recommend starting over. This is “bologna.” I think it takes two generations to make a well-landscaped yard. Look for the “line” in the old planting. A professional may have planned it. Use the “line if possible and as many old camellias as possible as background layers and specimen plants. Consider the camellias a heritage plant.

Large camellias can be cut down for regrowing and kept trimmed to a desired size. In fact, larger flowers may be grown because of a positive root imbalance. The roots collect nutrients and water for a more massive plant which pruning has now made smaller and in turn provided more nutrients for blooming. This fact explains why growers who show flowers

prune out spindly, crowded, excessive branches and twigs before the blooming season in August and September. This also gives more space for buds to open without bloom damage. Drastic pruning should not be done until spring – just a couple of weeks before buds swell to produce new growth. Research has shown that the mortality rate for drastically pruned plants is very high when plants are pruned before February. (Light pruning may be done at any time of the year. However die-back spores are more prevalent in hot weather.

During the few weeks preceding new growth, large camellias can be cut completely off leaving only a foot or two of trunk. (I recommend two feet.) New growth will come from the two feet of trunk. Because of the positive root imbalance new growth rather than growing the usual six or eight inches may grow several feet. To keep the camellia within the “bounds” you want, you might need to snip the ends of the new growth which will not bloom the following year anyway. If possible, make drastic pruning a two-year project. Prune half of the bush the first year leaving the other half to bloom and sustain the “shocked” half that was re-

moved. When the remainder of the bush is pruned the second year, the new shoots from last year’s pruning will bloom the second year.

Before pruning, visualize the landscape and try to leave as many “camellia trees” as will fit in. Trim limbs from the bottom and grow them as “standards.” These trees look very good at approximately a 45° angle out from the front corners of a house.

I know that Clemson and possibly your state agricultural college have said that wound paint is useless and commercial wound paint just might be. However, I believe wound paint mixed with fungicide or “spin out” makes it difficult for die-back spores to enter.

Be certain when limbs are trimmed, saw or lop closely beside the “ring” at the trunk or other limb on which it is grown. If cut beyond the ring, the nub left usually dies back to the ring and invites entry of disease.

Yes, pruning long-lived shrubs that eventually became small trees is worth the trouble. Camellias’ beautiful foliage and magnificent flowers can always be made to “work” in your landscape.

## Letter from a Member

Editor's note: I corresponded with John T. Gallagher of England. He is receiving ACCS Journals and I thought you would all enjoy reading his interesting reply.

15<sup>th</sup> August 2006-08-15

Dear Richard,

Please forgive me for being so slow in answering your letter and thanking you for the Journal. Yes, they do arrive safely.... Last year I did get across to see my old friend Cliff Parks in the fall when all the sasanquas and his hybrids were in flower. With one thing and another I had not been there for years, when the two boys were children! How time flies!

Here the camellias are some size now and I am still grafting and rooting cuttings of new things. Cliff has recently sent me scions of his yellow species and although we are too cold to grow them out of doors I have rooted and grafted most of them to play with in the greenhouse. I do a lot of work with the Royal Horticultural Society and they are building a new greenhouse at a cost of 7 million pounds in their grounds at Wisley. It will be opening to the public next year and they have been collecting plants to fill it. I have passed on some scions Cliff sent me, as it would be ideal to have a yellow camellia there! These days all the gardens are full of education as it is the easiest way of getting money, so the new greenhouse has a very good section for education as well.

With the global warming we are finding that it is reflected in the performance of many of the camellias. *C. sasanquas* has never really done much good until about five years ago when old plants in the collections are now beginning to flower in the fall. We also find that *Magnolia campbellii* has started to flower up country as opposed to only in Devon and Cornwall. Nothing to do with global warming – the deer have multiplied alarmingly since hunt-

ing was banned and they are a real menace in my garden here. This autumn I will have put up a deer fence if we are to continue gardening.

It is very good to hear from you and I will put my thinking cap on about an article. I did do one some years ago about the late Harvey Shortt and his camellias....

With very best wishes and regards.

Yours sincerely,  
John

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### ***A Christmas Present for the American Camellia Society***

The ACS Executive Director Search Committee is pleased to announce that we have a new Executive Director for the Camellia Society. She is Sandra (Sandi) Byrd who comes to us with a wealth (we use the word advisedly!) of fundraising experience as well as experience in successfully managing staff and volunteer work.

We are absolutely delighted to welcome Sandi to the ACS. She will start work sometime in January and will be with us in Orlando. There will be some transition time with our retiring Executive Director Ann Walton.

Sandi is uniquely prepared to help the ACS move forward as our new governance structure is put in place, and as we prepare to take new initiatives to increase our membership, raise more funds, and serve the Camellia World more effectively.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and be ready for action in 2007!

The ACS Executive Director Search Committee  
Hulyn Smith, Barbara Tuffli, Deane Hall, Marie Mizell, Forrest Latta,  
John Newsome, and W.C. Wyatt. Committee Advisor: Maridel Moulton



# **South Carolina State Fair And the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society**

Richard Mims

The South Carolina State Fair and the Mid-Carolina Camellia society began its association in 1973 when the late Jack Teague asked the director of horticultural exhibits if the fair would sponsor the annual fall camellia show. After receiving a positive answer, Teague and the President of the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society in 1973, Richard C. Mims, placed the matter before the Society. Excitement filled the air. Members knew that now thousands of people each year would view the camellias rather than the hundreds that visited the show previously held at the South Carolina National Bank. The new site, The South Carolina State Fair, was quickly approved and planning began.

The Mid-Carolina Camellia Society held its first show in conjunction with the South Carolina State Fair on October 20-21, 1973 in the Moore Building. (This is documented in the *Fair Bulletin* and *Carolina Camellias*, Vol. XXV, Fall, 1972, No. 3) The show was co-sponsored by The South Carolina State Fair Association and

the American Bank and Trust who paid the Society's expenses. The Lady Banksia Garden Club was in charge of flower arrangements then required at all shows sanctioned by the American Camellia Society. Exhibitors were allowed to park and visit the fair without charge. The show was held in the Moore Building. It was estimated that 20,000 visitors viewed this two-day show.

In the years after the first show, The State Fair Association agreed to help the club with expenses and storage of flower show materials. There has been wonderful cooperation over the years with Ms. Henriette Hall and her staff. Mrs. Hall is in charge of the displays in the Ellison building where the shows are presently held and the October 13-14, 2006 show has just been completed. The flowers were exhibited in this show and removed one by one when they died. The exhibit was completely dismantled on the seventh day after the flowers were entered.

(Cont. pg 19 — State Fair)

# **An Appeal for Help In Getting Articles for Publishing**

Richard Mims

Attending the meeting of the American Camellia Society in Portland, Oregon this spring was indeed a pleasure. Although I was being seated as Director at Large of the Atlantic Coast for two years, I would not have been a participant with a vote at that meeting but for the fact that Buck Mizzell, South Carolina Director decided on a trip to Australia during that time and appointed me his proxy.

Buck had participated in and knew about all the planned changes for ACS and I knew very little before receiving stacks of material to study for the meeting. I thought at the time that I should have opted Australia with the Mizzells.

In actuality the planning committee had done an outstanding job. The more I read and studied planned changes the more I realized that in my own mind I had wondered why certain of those changes hadn't been made in the past, (i.e. one governing board).

No attempt will be made to preempt ACS officials in telling

all the changes designed to grow a larger and better American Camellia Society. One change, however, I really like and want to point out. We want the publications of ACS and our local club activities to appeal not only to the growers who show camellias but also to the average gardener who will never exhibit nor even attend a camellia show—an average gardener who enjoys camellias in their landscape for the personal enjoyment of the beauty of their flowers. Many things such as show reports, etc. and hopefully all publications will eventually be at your fingertips on the WEB.

With this in mind, start writing not only for the ACCS Journal but also the ACS Journal and Yearbook. Send your articles and ideas to me and I will edit, put them in proper form and send to ACS for consideration of publication in the Journal or Yearbook. These pages in our publications must be filled and your editors need help from our members. If you have



suggestions on improvements or special columns you would like to read or write in any of the Journals, tell me (Chair of the ACS Publications Committee) and we will try to find someone to do it. Also, tell us what you want to see on the WEB. The Publications Committee would also want to hear from you when you receive the next ACS Journal. Editor Ann Walton

wants to know if we are on the right track in making it a Journal a person would join the American Camellia Society to receive. Our President Hulyn Smith and President Elect Barbara Tuffli are very eager to get things going that will bring the American Camellia society back to a the memberships it enjoyed during its heyday.

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## State Fair (continued from page 17)

Show dates and show reports in *The Camellia Journal*, an official publication of the American Camellia Society documents shows of the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society in cooperation with The South Carolina State Fair each year thereafter. This year's show was the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual show.

During the early years of the show, members stood watch to keep the public from handling the flowers. We have found, however, that very few people, (mostly children) handle the flowers and very few are damaged—not enough to worry about.

In the spirit of "competition for space" there is probably some resentment when camellia society members have to come in to get ready for their show when rose society members are still there. When a camellia society member, who needed to use a water faucet a rose society member was using, made the remark that it would be nice for the rose people to also grow camellias, the rose society member said: "I've got three camellia bushes at home and I think I'm going home and pull them up." Needless to say, the camellia member found another faucet to fill his cups.

# How Do We Use Camellias?

## Let Me Count the Ways

Richard Mims

I'll start with a personal observation. I grow camellias because, in my mind, no flower in existence equals their beauty. The myriad colors are magnificent and the forms fit any artistic design. The perfection of symmetry in some formal doubles such as "Sea Foam" boggles the mind. The simplistic beauty of some of the singles and semi doubles such as the Tamas and Red Hots make them difficult for the eyes to leave. Sometimes I walk out on a cold winter morning and see a newly opened surprise bloom so spectacular that I think to myself: "God, thank you for just letting me see the flower." I share with many of you a feeling that removes the stresses of work and cares of the world.

Because this article is somewhat of a personal nature as is most articles in this issue, perhaps I should start with ways the Mimses have used camellias other than in camellia shows.

When our darling daughter, Mary Kay, the Assistant Editor of the Journal set her wedding date we had a florist use camellias to decorate Rutledge Chapel at the University of South Carolina

for the wedding. Included were arrangements that were moved for the reception to planned strategic spots in the nearby Faculty House.

Another December, I was Chairman of decorations for the University of South Carolina employees Christmas Gala. The table centerpieces included show quality camellias gathered from all my friends in the area. Pins were available for the ladies to use the camellia blooms as corsages.

For many years the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society has furnished camellias for the debutante Camellia Ball held in Columbia each year. We furnish hundreds of camellias from our collections for decorating the hall.

The most beautiful casket sprays I have ever seen are made with camellia blooms. This is done for many of our society members whose last day occurs during the camellia season. I think most camelliaphytes hold off our passing until camellia season. The spray for Katherine's mother was made with beautiful assorted camellias. I had the funeral director turn the spray at graveside for an entirely different

beautiful view from the one in the Church.

Many growers have called attention to upcoming show dates by placing blooms in places of business who agree to put up an advertising poster. I have also placed blooms at local nurseries that put up posters.

A good place to get "blue ice" or "artificial ice" is from your veterinarian. Animal medicine is kept cool during shipment with these packets. My vet gave me a good supply a couple years ago and I "repaid" by putting a few specimen blooms on the receptionist's counter.

Formal doubles make excellent corsages to wear at Church. One of our members grows mostly formal doubles just for this purpose. He takes blooms to church for distribution to the ladies. They love it. (This is a tip for you single camellia growers.) Excess and duplicate camellias that I have rooted have been given to camellia society auctions, friends, master gardener auctions, and door prizes. (We usually give two away at each Mid-Carolina meeting. A person has to be a member to be in the drawing. This drawing probably increases meeting attendance.

Probably the best reason for growing camellias is for the pleasure and enjoyment you get from it. Grow them for the landscape

and for use in the house. Nothing makes a house more inviting and pleasant than fresh flowers. One bloom floating in water or many blooms in an arrangement always gets attention. During camellia season our kitchen is a depository for blooms picked but not taken to a show. We enjoy them until they collapse. The kitchen table is also a good place to study that new seedling flower and decide whether or not to register it.

In looking at uses of camellias, in many cases the different size categories that set the camellia apart from most other flowers is of utmost importance—boutonnieres take miniatures; corsages use miniatures, small, and medium; flower arrangements, all sizes with small or buds at the top tapered down with slightly increasing sizes and the giants around or near the base.

One of the best ways to use camellias is to take them to a show. As is at our state fair, the Georgia National Fair, shopping malls literally thousands of people get to see these magnificent blooms. Use these awesome camellia displays to gain new members and new exhibitors for your local club, the regional camellia societies such as the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, and the American Camellia Society.

# The Recipe Corner

Richard C. Mims

(Please send us your favorite recipes with a short  
“Story Behind the Recipe”)

Story Behind the Recipe: I used to grow a large vegetable garden. With four growing, very active children playing in the marching band, soccer, football, baseball, etc., it was my job to put food on the table. Although they ate well, they were still “picky.” Anything we put in gravy for flavoring had to be pureed—a sliver of onion could not even be visible. We even had to call it “disappearing gravy” and would stir the rice to show how the gravy “disappeared.”

When you are talking about a vegetable called SQUASH?—what a name. The name itself turns most people off. Why couldn’t it have been named *saluenensis* or yellow beauties or just something besides squash? When we hear “squash” it makes us think of squashing bugs underfoot. Anyway, I planted a whole row of squash. My father-in-law asked “Why are you planting so much squash? I really didn’t know what he meant until my fifty foot row started producing. I had squash “coming out of our ears”—I’ve never seen so many squash. Now, what could I do to get all my children to eat squash—some would, some wouldn’t.

Well, I thought about the onions in “disappearing gravy.” I just had to have have that good onion flavor—but pureeing them would only make the casserole juicier and not have the solidifying effect needed to keep it from being squash soup. Well, what about sautéing the onions? Sautéing would shrink the onions about 75% and anybody enjoys sautéed or fried onions better than boiled or baked onions. Most existing squash recipes called for grated or chopped onion added directly to the squash mixture and then baked as a casserole. The finished product still had the slippery, sliding onion pieces that many people don’t enjoy. To cut a long story short, the sautéing worked. Sautéed onions taste better than baked onions. Now my grown-up children always ask if I’m making squash casserole when they visit. Now remember, sautéing the onions is a must for this recipe!

## **Richard's Squash Casserole**

### **Ingredients:**

Enough squash to feed everyone.

A large onion or two (Two makes it better)

Olive Oil

1 can of mushroom soup (I use Campbell's)

A generous portion of cubed or grated sharp cheese

2 large eggs

1 scant teaspoon salt

1. Preheat oven to 350°
2. Wash the squash well and boil it for 15 minutes. (Some people, who don't have enough to do, peel the squash first.)
3. Drain the water off the boiled squash and place them in a baking dish.
4. With the point of a knife and a fork to hold the hot squash, slice or cut them into bite-sized chunks.
5. Dice a large onion or two. (Two makes it better)
6. Sauté the onions in the olive oil until well browned.
7. Mix the sautéed onions in the casserole dish with the squash
8. Stir in the rest of the ingredients: the can of mushroom soup, the generous portion of chopped or grated sharp cheese, two eggs, and the scant teaspoon of salt.
9. Bake in the preheated oven for 45 minutes.

(My daughter especially likes a layer of cheese over the top!)



**Pictures from the May 2006 Joint  
Mid-Carolina Camellia Society/  
Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Barbeque**  
Photos courtesy of Warren and Cheryl Thompson









# Show Report

## Mid-Carolina Camellia Society

### The State Fair, Columbia, SC

### October 13 and 14, 2006

#### ***Japonica, In Open***

L/VL	<i>Edna Bass Var.</i>	G.M. Serpas
M	<i>Tom Knudsen</i>	Ed & Lou Powers
S	<i>Pink Perfection</i>	Johnnie Walker
Min.	<i>Fircone Var.</i>	Johnnie Walker

#### ***Japonica, Protected***

L/VL	<i>Junior Prom</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
M	<i>Magic City</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
S	<i>Kiku-Toji</i>	Oliver & Tyler Mizzell

#### ***Reticulata***

Protected	<i>Valentine Day</i>	Oliver & Tyler Mizzell
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#### ***Hybrid (with other than reticulata parentage)***

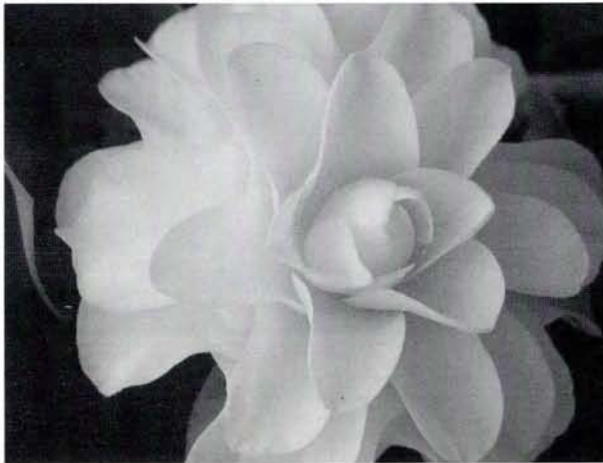
Protected	<i>Cile Mitchell</i>	Oliver & Tyler Mizzell
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#### ***Sasanqua***

Best Bloom	<i>Apple Blossom</i>	Magnolia Gardens (Beach)
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#### **Local Awards**

Overall Best Bloom	<i>Betty Sheffield Var.</i>	G.W. Supplee
Best Large	<i>Mathotiana Supreme</i>	Harvey Stegner
Best Medium	<i>Marie Bracey</i>	Leland Williams
Best Small	<i>Pink Perfection</i>	Peggy Camp



Peggy's Blush  
grown by Bill Supplee, photograph by Anne Moore

# 

Grand Strand Camellia Society, Brookgreen Gardens

November 4, 2005

**Best Bloom, In Open** *Edna Bass Var.* Geary & Bonnie Serpas

**Best Bloom, Protected** *Mary Fischer* Tyler & Buck Mizzell

### 

L/VL *Lauren Tudor* Jay & Debbie Ellis

M *Ester Smith* Ed & Lou Powers

S *Something Beautiful Var.* Jay & Debbie Ellis

### 

L/VL *Butchie Var.* Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

M *My Debbie* Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

S *Kiku-Toji* Buck & Tyler Mizzell

### 

In Open *Frank Houser Var.* Jay & Debbie Ellis

Protected *Pleasant Memories* Richard & Katherine Mims

### 

Unprotected *Julie Var.* Jay & Debbie Ellis

Protected *Delores Edwards* Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

**C. Sasanqua—Other Species** *Star Above Star* Jay & Debbie Ellis

**Best White (in open)** *Charlie Betts* Chuck & Bev Ritter

**Best White (protected)** *Dorothy Chester* Buck & Tyler Mizzell

**Best Bloom by Novice** *Jane Dolan* Lisa Bená

**Best Miniature** *Fircone Var.* Chuck & Bev Ritter

**Sweepstakes Open: Gold Certificate** Chuck & Bev Ritter

**Sweepstakes Protected: Gold Certificate** Richard & Katherine Mims

# Show Report

## Massey Lane Gardens

### Fort Valley, GA

### November 11, 2006

#### ***Japonica*, In Open**

L	<i>Edna Bass Var.</i>	Jay & Debbie Ellis
M	<i>Black Magic</i>	Chuck & Bev Ritter
S	<i>Kiku-Toji</i>	Jay & Debbie Ellis

#### ***Japonica*, Protected**

L	<i>Melissa Ann</i>	Steve & Gayle Lawrence
M	<i>Grand Marshall Var.</i>	Steve & Gayle Lawrence
S	<i>Kiku-Toji</i>	Buck & Tyler Mizzell
Min.	<i>Man Size</i>	John Newsome

#### ***Reticulata* (includes hybrids with *reticulata* parentage), In Open**

VL	<i>Frank Houser Var.</i>	Jay & Debbie Ellis
L	<i>Valentine Day</i>	Chuck & Bev Ritter
M	<i>June Normal</i>	Chuck & Bev Ritter

#### ***Reticulata* (includes hybrids with *reticulata* parentage), Protected**

VL	<i>Trophy</i>	Steve & Gayle Lawrence
L	<i>Tango Var.</i>	Steve & Gayle Lawrence
M	<i>Black Lace Peony</i>	Steve & Gayle Lawrence

#### ***Hybrid* (with other than *reticulata* parentage), In Open**

L	<i>Mona Jury</i>	Esther Lawrence
M	<i>Julie Var.</i>	Jay & Debbie Ellis
S	<i>Night Rider</i>	Chuck & Bev Ritter

#### ***Hybrid* (with other than *reticulata* parentage), Protected**

L	<i>Cile Mitchell</i>	Steve & Gayle Lawrence
M	<i>Julie</i>	Dave & Elizabeth Scheibert
S	<i>Buttons &amp; Bows</i>	Steve & Gayle Lawrence

#### **Miniature In Open** *Fircone Var.*

#### **Miniature Protected** *Little Slam Pink*

#### **Collection of 3 In Open** *Kiku-Toji*

#### **Collection of 3 Protected** *Junior Prom*

#### **Sasanqua or other spec.** *Leslie Ann*

#### **Best White In Open** *Melissa Ann*

#### **Best White Protected** *Mary Alice Cox*

#### **Best Small Bloom by Novice** *Chansonette*

#### **Best Ville de Nantes**

#### **Sweepstakes**

#### **Best Bloom In Open** *Tomorrows Dawn Bessie*

#### **Best Bloom Protected** *Pleasant Memories*

**Atlantic Coast Camellia Society**

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