

Atlantic Coast Camellias

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Camellia Japonica 'Ferris Wheel'

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From the Cover

‘Ferris Wheel’

*Front cover photo taken by
J. D. Thomerson*

Ferris Wheel was registered by Nuccio’s Nursery in Altadena, CA in 2006. It is a Large to Very Large, Semi-Double to Loose Peony bloom with striking pink and red streaks in various lengths throughout the bloom. It blooms early—midseason and wins many awards at camellia shows.



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The 2025 ACCS Convention will be held on Friday, Oct. 3rd and Saturday, Oct. 4th. It will meet at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, near the Savannah Airport. This is the same venue as last year.

Please Mark your Calendars Now and Plan to Attend.

More Details will be Included in the May 2025 ACCS Journal

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Carol Selph

I hope you had a special holiday season, spending many cherished moments with family and friends. Thanksgiving and Christmas are joyous times to enjoy family in a less rushed and carefree way. Jerry and I miss having little children around, as our grandchildren are 21 and 18, but we are so thankful we can spend quality time with them. You are blessed beyond measure if you still have young people in your life. The Christmas parties with friends may seem hectic to schedule and sometimes tiring to attend, but oh so worth it as bonds grow stronger and more treasured.

I want to thank each of you for making our 2024 Fall ACCS convention a great success. Despite Helene, we had a magnificent time. Communication was almost nonexistent as we were not sure the hotel had amenities such as electricity. However, the hotel was well-staffed, and the food was excellent. Each of you who attended added so much in making it memorable: hours of planning and arranging events and menus, growing and bringing plants to the auction, participating by planning and speaking in the educational programs, updating bylaws, writing programs for registration and the auction, making nametags, and receiving payments and dues. It takes a large team to make a convention run successfully, and rest assured, members, you have a strong and dedicated leadership group. Next year's convention will be at the same location, the Embassy Suites by Hilton, near the Savannah Airport. ACCS members, we listened to you and moved the convention back to the weekend so those who work can attend. The 2025 convention date is the first weekend in October, on the 3rd and 4th. Please mark your calendars NOW.

Friends are special, and many camellia friends top my list. We have numerous common interests and learn so much from one another. ACCS is all about sharing stunning blooms, scions, plants, and best plant care practices. However, the love and support for one another is the most enduring and fulfilling. We recently lost four of our experienced and valued members in the deaths of Buck Mizzell, a member of the Mid-Carolina Society, Steve Lawrence from the Tallahassee Society, Harlie Bodine from the Wiregrass Society, and Florence Crowder from Denham Springs, LA, and member of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society. Our condolences and prayers go out to their families and friends. Many in our society have serious health conditions and are less active than they were. We must reach out to them and let them know we still value their knowledge and wisdom and love them dearly. They love getting phone calls. We also must become the type of members they have been. Remember, they invited us to the



Carol Selph

local meetings and mentored us, training us on how to show a bloom, grow camellias, and help us become quality judges.

We are at the height of our camellia season. I encourage you to support the ACS shows by bringing blooms. You never know how exceptional your blooms genuinely are. This past October, I experienced a marvelous yet surprising phenomenon at the Georgia National Fair. First-time showers, first-time novice judges, and first-time winners Tom and Jonanne Beckman picked a 'Lauren Tudor' on their way to the show. The bloom won Best in Show in the unprotected division. Congratulations to them and their mentors, Tommy and Brenda Alden.

Now, the ball is in your court, and action is needed. It all starts with you. The Wiregrass Camellia Society in South Georgia inducted a new slate of officers in June 2024. They are young, in their forties to early sixties. The board of directors is a combination of the old and the new, and the result is a growth in our society with renewed energy. I urge you to invite a friend or two to your meetings. Our growth is dependent on what happens at the local level. We value all members and treasure our social members as well as our large camellia growers. May God bless each of you.

With much love, Carol



**Tom and Jonanne Beckman
Displaying Their 'Lauren Tudor' Best
in Show Bloom**

In Memory of Florence Crowder

Florence Norma Scivicque Crowder, 88, went to be with her Lord on December 24, 2024. Florence was born in Head of Island, LA on November 8, 1936. She graduated from Denham Springs High School in 1954 and later graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. Florence pursued her career as an Educator with the Livingston Parish School System. Later, along with her husband Charles, she owned and operated Crowder Greenhouses in Denham Springs and later opened Crowder Antiques in Denham Springs. She was a very active member of the International, American, and Baton Rouge Camellia Societies and served as the American Vice President of the



International Camellia Society. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Denham Springs. She served on various civic organizations throughout her life receiving numerous awards for her service. (The above was taken from Florence's Obituary)

(The information below was gathered from J. D. Thomerson's memory and articles from the Gulf Coast Camellian, Spring 2017, Volume 43, No. 2)

The camellia world knows Florence Crowder as the foremost leader in the identification and preservation of Pre-1900 camellia varieties. Her love of camellias began as she and her sisters attempted to identify the 100-plus camellias her parents planted at their family home in Denham Springs, LA. These camellias were planted in the 1940s and early 1950s, but many were registered much earlier — even as far back as the 1800s. Florence began seeking help from camellia experts in identifying these older varieties and soon learned that many were very scarce as other experts could not identify them. Florence studied old camellia books and literature and finally was able to identify most but not all of the varieties. This process began a love for preserving antique camellias all around the camellia world.

Florence gave numerous presentations at camellia society meetings throughout the Southeast for many years and wrote articles for publication about historic camellia gardens she discovered and explored. Her search for older varieties necessitated traveling to Europe on many occasions to bring home scions of Pre-1900 varieties as most very early camellias were originally developed in Europe, not the U.S. This led to her leadership roles in the International Camellia Society.

One of Florence's most significant achievements was the establishment of a historic camellia garden in the Barton Arboretum at the Burden Museum and Gardens in Baton Rouge, LA. Over her travels collecting historic varieties, Florence had acquired and propagated over 100 varieties by 2015. The Burden Botanic Garden received a grant from the International Camellia Society to defray much of the major expenses, such as walkways, irrigation systems, and raised beds. Volunteers from the Baton Rouge Camellia Society planted the camellias in the Winter of 2016—17 and have helped maintain and add to this camellia garden over the past 8 years.

Florence Crowder's love of older camellia varieties is perhaps only outdone by her love of people. She was a blessing and a true friend to many in the camellia world. Her enthusiasm and joy will surely be missed but not forgotten.



'Florence's Fancy Formal' Registered by Pat Johnson in honor of Florence Crowder

In Memory of Steve Lawrence

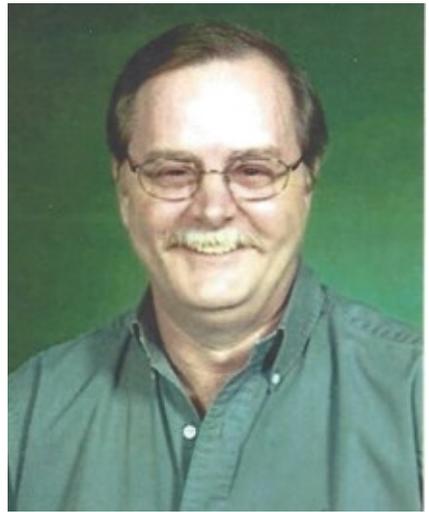
Steve Lawrence, 67, was born on June 13, 1957, in Cairo, GA. He went to his heavenly home on November 23, 2024, in Tallahassee, FL. He is survived by his loving wife, Gayle; his mother, Esther Lawrence; two brothers, Brian (Liz) Lawrence and Stan (Hope); and his special friend Randolph Maphis.

Steve was a 1975 graduate of Rickards High School in Tallahassee. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Tallahassee and was able to go on Builders for Christ missions for several years in various other states. Steve has a servant's heart.

The "Camellia Bug" hit Steve in the mid-90s, and he began building his camellia garden, eventually building a greenhouse to protect and grow more camellias. He and his wife, and eventually his mother, became camellia judges and attended and judged regularly at shows in Perry, Valdosta, Quitman, Douglas, and Albany in Georgia, as well as Tallahassee, Gainesville, Ocala, and other cities in Florida. Steve and Gayle won the title as the Best Greenhouse Camellia Growers several years by winning the most awards at camellia shows in the southeast. The Lawrences were particularly gifted at winning the prized best 'Georgia National Fair' camellia bloom award at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA.

Steve was a long-time member of the Tallahassee Camellia Society and served in many leadership roles. Over the years, Steve and Gayle registered several outstanding camellia seedlings with the ACS. These include Mary Ann Lawrence, Amanda Ann, Rodney Lawrence, Gayles Mona (a sport of Mona Jury), Gayle's Stella, and the reticulata Mary Skappel Evans.

More than anything, Steve was a genuine friend. He will be missed by many and forgotten by none.



Mary Ann Lawrence



Amanda Ann

In Memory of William Oliver “Buck” Mizzell

William Oliver “Buck” Mizzell, age 89, of Santee, SC, died at his home after a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease on October 23, 2024. He was born on July 2, 1935. Buck was married to Tyler Bickley Mizzell for 63 years. They have a daughter, Pamela Mizzell Zboch, a son-in-law Marc Thomas Zboch, and four grandchildren: Marc Thomas Zboch, Jr. (Maggie), William Robert Zboch (Lily), Greg Xinguan Zboch, and Luke Hunter Zboch.

Buck was the oldest son of the late Dorothy and Watson Mizzell. Buck is survived by sister Sarah Mizzell Smoak and brother-in-law Cecil (Pike) Smoak. He was preceded in death by brother Paul Franklin Mizzell and sister JoAnne Mizzell Boone.

Buck loved the land and enjoyed farming and raising cattle. He delighted in sharing farm adventures with his grandboys. Buck was a member of Jericho Church, served in the National Guard, and, along with Tyler, enjoyed traveling across the United States and Internationally.

Buck was a renowned camellia grower and a dedicated member of multiple Camellia organizations. Buck and Tyler acquired an amazing camellia collection and enjoyed growing camellias and exhibiting blooms throughout the Southeast. Buck served as an outstanding ACS Certified Camellia Judge for 30-plus years. He and Tyler earned the honor of being the number one greenhouse camellia grower in the Southeast for multiple years. Many clubs and societies also profited from his many presentations on growing, pruning, and preparing camellia blooms for exhibition.



In Honor of Buck Mizzell, this John Wang Seedling will Soon be Registered as ‘Buck Mizzell’



Tyler and Buck Mizzell

On September 13, 1980, Buck was elected First Vice President of ACCS and later served in many other roles, including President. Buck was perhaps best known as the second half of the “Buck and Bill Show” as he and Bill Robertson served as Auctioneers for the ACCS annual camellia auction for many years. His “comic relief” was a highlight at ACCS Conventions, and he and Tyler helped raise considerable amounts of money for ACCS.

In recognition of Buck’s dedication and service to ACCS, he was awarded the ACCS Award of Merit in 2009. Above all, Buck was a loving and caring friend to many and just a joy to be around. Buck will be dearly missed but always remembered.

**2024 - Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
Award of Merit
Mr. Randolph Maphis
For Dedication and Service to ACCS**

Randolph Maphis has been a dedicated supporter of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS) for over 25 years. He served as President of the ACCS from 2019 - 2021, one year longer than previous presidents due to the pandemic and a hurricane that canceled the annual meeting. He is a dynamic speaker and has made numerous presentations at ACCS Conferences over the past 25 years. Randolph has supervised the annual ACCS plant auction for many years. He spearheads the soliciting of plant donations from members and displays photos of each camellia variety being auctioned. He is known for grafting the newest and best camellia varieties and has graciously donated many of these outstanding plants each year to the ACCS Auction. Randolph's dedication and support of the ACCS Auction has generated several thousands of dollars for the ongoing operation of the ACCS.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Randolph was responsible for rebuilding the struggling Tallahassee Camellia Society. Over the past 40 years, he has served multiple times in all leadership roles, including president. He has been the glue that has held the club together and made the Tallahassee Camellia Society one of the strongest camellia societies in the Atlantic Coast region. This strength was evident when Randolph, with much help from his wife Marilyn and other members, hosted the 2015 ACS National Convention, which was a tremendous success. His camellia knowledge is exceptional, and Randolph graciously gives several outstanding camellia presentations to local camellia clubs throughout the southeast every year.

Randolph was very good friends with Hulyn Smith and assisted him greatly during Hulyn's later years. Upon Hulyn's death, Randolph worked tirelessly for years to uphold Hulyn's desire for his unregistered seedlings to be cared for, evaluated, named, and registered. Randolph propagated these varieties by grafting onto large healthy rootstocks and distributing scions throughout the camellia world. This effort has preserved many of Hulyn's seedlings that would otherwise be lost.

Randolph has continued this effort to grow and distribute recently registered camellia varieties. Of particular significance has been his work with John Wang from California. John Wang sent Randolph 60 plus of his best seedlings for Randolph to evaluate their growth in the north Florida climate. With the recent passing of John Wang, Randolph has committed to continue John's hybridizing work and will be registering many of the Wang seedlings in the near future.

Randolph's contributions to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society and the entire camellia world are tremendous. He continues to be a wealth of camellia knowledge, a tireless worker, and a true and trusted friend to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.



Randolph and Marilyn Maphis

ACCLIMATE YOUR CAMELLIAS IN A RAISED BED

Advice From J. D. Thomerson — Valdosta, GA



A discouraging problem I have experienced with camellias occurs when some of my newly planted camellias die within the first year or two of being planted. I hear other camellia growers, especially newer growers, bemoan this same issue. I try to make “newbie” camellia growers feel better by saying that for every ten camellias I plant, I have at least two die — and in the past, this was probably true. These camellias did not die from being planted too deep, or too much or little fertilizer, or any other common camellia problem. They died because their roots had not transitioned from the camellia nursery-grown pine bark/sand mix to my normal garden topsoil. Camellia nurseries root and grow camellias in pots, and this requires an extremely well-draining potting mix typically consisting of mainly fine pine bark, sand, and perlite. The problem is the potting mix the camellias grow in at a nursery is nothing like the soil in my yard.

When I would dig up one of my dead camellias to look for the cause of death, I would discover that the roots had not expanded outside their original planted root ball, and the roots and remaining nursery potting mix were totally dried up. I realized the nursery potting mix would dry out much quicker than the surrounding yard topsoil. During dry periods, I could water my young camellia for several minutes, but the water would just shed off this dry potting mix. The normal soil around the camellia would be saturated well, but my thirsty camellia was still as dry as a bone.

Now, I can hear many people thinking that all I needed to do was rough up the camellia root ball before planting and remove a large amount of the nursery potting mix. Let me assure you that I have always done this when planting all types of plants, especially with camellias. This practice seemed to work fine for all my other plants, but with camellias, I was still losing around 20% of my new camellias. The issue still seemed to be that the roots just did not want to leave the little bit of nursery potting mix and incorporate into my garden soil. So, I began to remove nearly all of the potting mix, probably about 75%, and as long as I babied these camellias the first year by keeping them well watered, they did not die and really began to grow in year two. I had fewer die, and they grew better when I removed most of the potting mix before planting.

However, I began to have a different problem. As many readers know, I now have several hundred camellias in the ground and many others in various sized pots. I just could not keep track of all the various places I had planted these nearly bare-rooted young camellias. They were here, there, and everywhere, and they needed different watering schedules than the mature camellias all around them. To make my issue more difficult, I must contend with the tremendous tree root competition these young camellias have to compete with. So, with all the introduction to my problem outlined above, let me tell you what I have been doing with excellent results and much less work.

I began planting any newly acquired potted camellia in a raised bed containing 100% local topsoil. My raised bed is three feet wide and 30 feet long and made up of 2 x 8 pressure-treated boards. I typically planted during the months of November — March to reduce stress from the heat. Since the camellias will only temporarily be growing in the raised bed, I planted them about two feet apart so I can fit about 30 plants in this one raised bed. I continued to remove about 75% of the nursery potting mix and often would even totally bareroot the plant. In the raised bed, I placed a soaker hose that I could use to water all these camellias. The raised bed had excellent drainage and little root competition. Fertilizing, watering, pruning, spraying, and mulching were extremely easy in this small area.

After about one year of growing in the raised bed with topsoil, these plants were ready at any time to be dug from the raised bed and planted out in my camellia garden. I don't think these dug-up plants even knew they had been moved. After one good soaking with the hose, they were good to go — I could treat them like all my other established camellias. Over the years, I have planted at least 100 camellias using this raised bed acclimation period growing method, and I honestly believe I have not had a single one of these camellia die. The nice thing is that the raised bed can be used repeatedly and can be converted to growing rootstocks for grafting if that ever becomes a desire.

Kay and I have many neighbors, friends, and family members who often ask if they can have a camellia. I really like digging up one of my raised bed camellias to give to these new camellia enthusiasts because I know that the plants are already acclimated to growing in the ground. With just a little watering, these plants will thrive. Hopefully, this success will inspire these people to want more camellias and, who knows, maybe even join our camellia society and become just as addicted to camellias as many of us.

THE STORY OF JOHN AND JUNE WANG

By Randolph Maphis

Camellia show attendees are amazed when they see camellia varieties Fine Pure, Holy Pure, and Evening Glow Pearl. They marvel at Yellow and Purple, Putuo Purple Light, and Lake Erhai Pearl. These retics are lighter in color and cover all the show-size categories. They usually look for a show person to ask two questions. Why are these retics not the usual red and pink? Who developed these new lighter-colored camellias that cover all the size categories? That is when they learn about John Wang.

John Wang was born in Nanking, China, and spoke Mandarin Chinese. June was born in Hunan, China. Both families moved to Taiwan before they turned 10 years old in about 1949. They did not know each other and met on an



Camellia Hybridizer John Wang

airplane to the United States on January 29, 1965. June was going to Salt Lake City, Utah, to study Library Science at the University of Utah. John was going to Utah State University in Logan, Utah, to study Dairy Science. They formed an immediate friendship, and John would make several trips a month to see June. She said it took about 3 hours to go about 76 miles on those winding, curving, and mountainous roads. Their love grew stronger and stronger as he made those weekend trips from Logan to Salt Lake City. He was only interested in June, and camellias never entered his mind.

They both graduated with master's degrees and finally married and moved to Oklahoma. John's first job was with the Safeway Grocery Company in a Quality Control Laboratory. He had an internship with Safeway a couple of summers before he graduated. John was a scientist and a chemist in the lab. The scientific methods he learned in school would serve him well when he was developing new camellias. He considered getting his PHD, but June wanted to start a family. Their first child, Janice, was born in Oklahoma. The idea of a PhD quickly disappeared forever.

Later, they moved to California with John's job, and he became Quality Control Manager of Safeway's dairy lab. He worked with Safeway until he retired. He told me Safeway paid him well, and he amassed a nice retirement. June managed their money.

They lived in a couple of apartments and finally moved into their present home in Orinda, California. It was here that John became interested in camellias. He was always a gardener. He loved to garden. This interest in gardening led him to gardening friends who grew camellias. They shared their knowledge of camellias, and the camellia bug infected him. He then became a collector of camellias, and his love grew and grew until they became his passion. June did not share this passion for camellias



Camellia Retic Hybrid 'Lake Erhai Pearl'



Camellia Retic Hybrid 'Holy Pure'

but was incredibly supportive of his hobby. I knew she had to be a special person because he did most of his hybridizing work with camellias in their living room. He did this because the weather in Orinda was very cool, and seeds would not set outside when the temperatures were so low. San Francisco and Orinda, California, are also very cool in the summer. At my house, if I sat pots of camellias in the living room, the next day, my belongings would be in the driveway, and my house key would no longer work.

When you talk with June, she always says she lost the love of her life. June was the center of John's world, too. He said she was very smart, especially in financial matters. He owed everything he had to her and trusted her financial knowledge. He loved her dearly. She said he was the center of her world and had never raised his voice to her. When talking to her, you can tell that the love they shared all those years was "Real Love." She misses him terribly since his passing earlier this year. She always tells everyone she cannot wait to join him in heaven.



Camellia Retic Hybrid 'June Wang'



Camellia Retic Hybrid 'John Wang'

POPULAR CAMELLIA VARIETIES “THEN AND NOW”

by J. D. Thomerson with Many Excerpts from Jim Randall

In the 1995 American Camellia Society (ACS) Yearbook, Jim Randall wrote an article titled “Popular Camellias Then and Now.” He decided to use the years 1944 - 1947 as the “Then” because that is when ACS was established and there was the first recorded data. He, of course, used 1995, fifty years later, as the “Now.” His purpose was to compare and contrast how the camellia hobbyist taste had changed over these 50 years. Also, to spotlight many popular new camellia varieties propagated during those 50 years.

Jim’s first group of camellias from way back “Then” was derived from popularity polls of 1944-45 and 1946-47. All varieties chosen back then were Japonica varieties as hybrids were rare back then, and *reticulata*’s had not made it to the USA at that time. He listed the 17 most popular varieties from 1944-1947 in alphabetical order, with comments as shown in Table 1 below.

Most Popular Camellia Varieties from 1944 to 1947 – “The Then List”	
Adolph Audusson	Still popular, especially the “Special”
Alba Plena	Delicate white formal
Blood of China	Good, red, semi-double to peony
C.M. Hovey	Nice dark red formal, but shatters
Daikagura	Good fall blooming variety, too early for CA shows
Debutante	Still seen, but not popular with hobbyists
Donckelarii	Variation makes this a nice semi-double
Elegans	Forerunner to all current favorite “Elegans” sports
Gigantea	Not seen much anymore
Herme	One of the first plants owned by most camellia hobbyists
Lady Clare	Good early winter bloomer for your garden
Magnoliaeflora	Still popular, excellent blush pink semi-double
Mathotiana	Still popular due to its great form
Pink Perfection	Still a very popular formal small, especially in trays
Professor Sargent	Not seen much anymore at shows
Rosea Superba	Very seldom seen
Ville de Nantes	Still one of the most popular overall camellias.

TABLE 1

Next, Jim takes a “snapshot” look at what back then was the midpoint of the past 50 years. He used the 1971 and 1972 popularity polls along with the most popular varieties of the 1974 and 1975 “Judges Have Spoken” tabulations in the ACS Journals. For this time period, Jim included the 23 most popular camellia varieties. You can see in Table 2 below that a few reticulata and non-reticulata hybrids began to appear during the early-mid 1970s.

Most Popular Camellia Varieties in the Early 1970s – “The Snapshot List”	
Angel Wings	Popular non-retic for many years
Betty Sheffield Supreme	One of the all-time favorite japonicas
Cater’s Sunburst	Striped flower of many forms
Charlean & Var.	Non-retic show favorite for many years, especially when variegated
Charlie Bettes	One of the best all-around whites
Drama Girl	Favorite of the 1950s and 1960s
Elegans Supreme	First of the big three “Elegans” show stoppers
Elsie Jury	First non-retic to appear on the popularity polls
Francie L.	One of the first retics on popularity polls
Grand Slam	One of the best japonicas, great contrast of bright red and golden stamens
Guilio Nuccio & Var.	Great rabbit-eared japonica, especially when variegated
Helen Bower & Var.	Beautiful formal, longtime show favorite
Howard Asper	First retic hybrid that became very popular
Kramer’s Supreme	One of the first camellias with fragrance
Lila Naff	Nice light pink retic, replaced by Lasca Beauty
Man Size	One of the best and most popular miniatures
Mandalay Queen	Popular retic for several years in the 1960s
Margaret Davis	Probably one of the best all-around camellias
Mathotiana Supreme	Semidouble sport of Mathotiana
Tiffany	Popular in the 1970s, a great pink of many forms
Tomorrow Park Hill	One of the all-time favorite show stoppers
Valentine Day & Var.	One of the best retic hybrids and its formal
Ville de Nantes	Most popular camellia of all time.

TABLE 2

If you study the first list (Table 1), called “Then,” and the second list (Table 2), called “Early 1970s Snapshot,” you will notice that ‘Ville de Nantes’ is the only variety that appears on both lists. The “Elegans” and “Mathotiana” families are represented in

both lists if you include their “sports” being more popular than the original variety in the Early 1970s Snapshot list.

Jim’s final list was the “Now” most popular camellias. Remember, Jim’s article was published in 1997, so his “Now” is actually our “Then.” That sounds a bit strange, but hopefully, it makes sense. This early 1990s list was derived from the top ten Japonica’s, the top five Reticulata’s, and the top three Non-Reticulata Hybrids for the years 1990 – 1994 (five years) of the “Judges Have Spoken” summaries in the ACS Yearbook. As would be the case with most avid camellia growers today, Jim had a hard time limiting the most popular varieties at that time to 17 or 23 like in his earlier lists. He alphabetically lists the 40 varieties below (see Table 3) for his back-then “Now” lists.

Most Popular Camellias from 1990 to 1994 – “Jim Randall’s, Back Then, Now List”	
Betty Sheffield Supreme	Still beautiful and as popular as ever
Black Lace	Nice formal medium retic, popular with the advent of classes for smaller retics
Cherries Jubilee	Good medium when white petaloids are prevalent
Dahlohnega	Beautiful cream to yellow medium formal
Debbie	Great peony non-retic with outstanding color
Delores Edwards	New non-retic, good for early shows
Dr. Clifford Parks	One of the best retics. Has been in the top five retics every year since 1976
Elegans Champagne	One of the most popular and best “Elegans”
Elsie Jury	One of the most popular non-retics for many years
Emma Gaeta Var.	Currently, one of the most popular retics
Fircone Var.	Unusual form and variegation, a fantastic miniature
Frank Houser & Var.	New retic with rabbit-ear petals, most popular in the variegated form
Grace Albritton/Tammia	The most popular small camellia around, has been on the judge’s top ten japonica list since 1976
Hall’s Pride & Var.	Very popular in the South, especially the variegated form
Harold L. Paige	Great peony retic, has been on the judge’s top five retic list every year since the early 1980s
Helen Bower & Var.	Still a great show flower
John Hunt	New extremely large retic from Australia
Julia	Non-retic not seen too much in California
Julie Var.	Great splotched variegated non-retic
Katie Var.	Popular, very large japonica
Lady Laura	Another bloom of many forms, pink with rose markings

Lasca Beauty	Outstanding light pink retic, drops prematurely
Little Babe & Var.	Another popular small
Man Size	Great miniature. It has been in the top ten japonicas list almost every year since 1974
Margaret Davis	One of our best all-around japonicas with picotee edges
Miss Charleston Var.	Great variegated large japonica. Beautiful contrast between dark red and white variegation. It can be a formal.
Pleasant Memories	Recent retic becoming more popular, from CA
Royal Velvet	The most popular camellia in CA, outstanding
Show Time	Showy, very large pink japonica
Something Beautiful	One of the current favorite miniatures
Tomorrow Park Hill	Long-time show favorite. The last few years, its popularity has declined.
Valentine Day & Var.	Has been on the top five retic list every year since “Judges Have Spoken” began. A terrific formal.
Valley Knudsen	Been around for a long time. Great color
Ville de Nantes	Probably the most popular camellia since the inception of the ACS

TABLE 3

The varieties appearing on both the 1970s Snapshot (Table 2) and Early 1990s (Table 3) lists include Betty Sheffield Supreme, Elsie Jury, Helen Bower & Var., Man Size, Margaret Davis, Valentine Day & Var., and Ville de Nantes. Pink Perfection did reappear on the Early 1990s list from the original 1940s “Then” list. The only variety to appear on all three of Jim’s list was the ever-popular ‘Ville de Nantes’ camellia.

Well, Jim Randall did not make any new lists (at least that I could find) since his 1997 publication. That was 27 years ago. I thought it would be interesting to make a “New – Now” list. I had just as hard a time as Jim limiting the number of camellia varieties on my list – as you can see in Table 4, shown below, my list also “ballooned” to 40 varieties. To determine my favorite camellia varieties, I listed the top camellia varieties from the “Judges Have Spoken” summaries in the ACS Yearbooks for the camellia show seasons of 2018-19, 2019-20, 2021-22, and 2022-23. I did not include the Camellia show season of 2020-21, as the COVID pandemic canceled nearly all the Camellia shows.

My “Updated Now” list was created using a slightly different method than Jim’s earlier lists. For each of the four camellia seasons listed above, I recorded the top five camellias in each of the following classes and size categories: **Japonica** (Very Large, Large, Medium, and Small); **Reticulata** (Very Large, Large, and Medium); **Non-Reticulata Hybrid** (Large – Very Large, Medium, and Small); **Best Miniature** (any class) and **Best Sasanqua**. I added the total points each variety had for each year in all the above categories. I represented each class with at least two camellia varieties except

for the Sasanquas. The Large, Medium, and Small Japonica classes, being by far the most entered classes at Camellia shows, were represented with five varieties each. Other classes and number of varieties chosen were: Very Large Japonica – 3; Very Large Retic - 5; Large Retic – 3; Medium Retic – 2; Large, Non-Retic Hybrid – 2; Medium, Non-Retic Hybrid – 4; Small, Non-Retic Hybrid – 3; Miniature – 2; Sasanqua – 1.

I chose the method of selecting the varieties shown below to make sure that all sizes and categories of camellias were adequately represented. Much like at a camellia show, there are twice as many Japonica varieties as either Reticulatas or Non-Retic Hybrids.

Most Popular Camellia Varieties from 2018 - 2023 – “J. D.’s Current Now List”		
Japonica Very Large	Lauren Tudor & Sports	Slow to get established, then becomes a huge plant with loads of early-mid blooms
	Edna Bass & Var.	A bit difficult to grow on its own roots
	Show Time	Spots easily. If you can get an unblemished bloom to a show, it will win
Japonica Large	Royal Velvet & Var.	I consider this variety the best overall japonica
	Julius Nuccio	New very dark red that is very popular – perhaps should be listed as very large only
	Ferris Wheel	New very nice red striped – could be listed as very large only. Has sported a couple of other colors and patterns
	Carter Sunburst/Sports	A popular camellia for many years, several nice sports
	Grand Marshall & Var.	Not as popular as it once was, very full peony bloom, best variegated
Japonica Medium	Betty Sheffield & Sports	Elaine’s Betty and Betty Sheffield Supreme win the most awards, but there are so many other nice sports.
	Margaret Davis	A wonderful medium japonica from Australia with a picotee red edge on white bloom, somewhat similar to Betty Sheffield Supreme but a better grower.
	Black Magic	Very, very dark red waxy bloom. You either love it or don’t like it. Some people say it looks like a plastic bloom. The majority of people love it.
	Lady Laura	An older but still popular variety. Pink with darker pink stripes.
	Bella Jinhua	A newer, very dark red formal, can be hard to bloom; even leaves are red-tinted.

Japonica Small	Tama Peacock	Listed as a small–medium size, so it gets judged as a small. A profuse bloomer, maroon red washing to a large white border
	Red Hots & Var.	Brilliant red tubular semidouble with pointed petals. Early – Mid-Season bloomer.
	Red Devil & Var.	Small, dark red SD with somewhat “V” shaped petals. Very striking when variegated. Late Flowering
	Tudor Baby Var	Slow grower but beautiful contrast of dark red and variegation on a perfect formal double bloom
	Man Size	Used to be listed as a miniature and was a huge award winner. Now classified as a small, so it does not win as much, but still is a winner in the small and white classes.
Miniature	Fircone Var	If you bring a nice Fircone Var bloom to a show, it will win. Has been winning the miniature class for years.
	Sweet Jane	A miniature non-retic hybrid that usually gets judged as just a miniature, as typically there is no mini non-retic hybrid category.
Reticulata Very Large	Frank Houser & Var.	The best reticulata one can grow by far, grows well for a retic, and withstands colder weather better than most all other retics. Both solid and variegated are must-haves.
	Pleasant Memories	Has been around a long time, sets buds well and gibbs well. Grows a little better than many other retics.
	Ray Gentry and Var.	An incredible very large red retic, can get huge, both solid and variegated are outstanding, does get dieback but worth the effort to grow. Best when grafted.
	Hall's Pride Var	Difficult to grow and must be grafted to grow well. A huge pink variegated semi-double to peony bloom.
	Dr. Clifford Parks	A good growing dark red reticulata that has been popular for a long time.
Reticulata Large	Holy Pure	One of the best retic hybrid blooms from John Wang. White shading to pink on the outside. Grows well for a retic and increasing in popularity
	Valentine Day & Var.	A great pink formal double retic that performs well. Both solid and variegated are popular.

	Valley Knudsen	A camellia saluenensis x reticulata 'Budda' hybrid. Small leaves and glowing pink color make it look more like the a non-retic hybrid than a retic hybrid. Bloom size is more med-large than a true large. Good growing variety.
Reticulata Medium	Adrienne Boueres	A new excellent growing medium dark pink, rose form, retic hybrid. Frank Houser was the seed parent. Will win medium retic awards.
	Black Lace & Sports	An older retic hybrid that looks more like a typical japonica than a retic. Medium, dark velvet red formal double bloom.
Non-Retic Hybrid Large	Cile Mitchell	A large, pink, non-retic formal double bloom. Blooms E-M and takes gibb well.
	Mona Jury & Var.	Can be a bit difficult to grow. Vibrant pink peony color. Variegation makes the bloom even more showy.
Non-Retic Hybrid Medium	Julie Var.	Many growers (myself included) cannot distinguish between Julie Var. and Julia. Both wins in the medium non-retic hybrid class.
	First Blush	Blush pink edged pink formal double non-retic hybrid.
	Island Sunset	Very vibrant, rich coral pink color, that is lighter in the center. Very eye-catching.
	Dancing Blaze	A very dark red, medium, semi-double from New Zealand. Becoming very popular
Non-Retic Hybrid Small	Spring Daze	A beautiful small non-retic that is blush pink edged coral pink. Blooms midseason-late but accepts gibb well. It is a mainstay award winner in its class.
	Freedom Bell	A small bright red bell-shaped semi-double. A floriferous bloomer on a compact bush.
	Night Rider	Perhaps the darkest red (almost black) bloom. Even its roots are dark red. Miniature-Small bloom that typically gets judged as a small.
Sasanqua	Star above Star	A species Vernalis that is grouped as a Sasanqua in camellia shows. Larger than most sasanquas and the most popular.

After completing the above list (J. D.'s Current Now List), I was surprised by how many of the current "Now" list varieties were also on Jim Randall's Early 1970s list (Table 2) and his Early 1990's list (Table 3). These varieties included: Margaret Davis, Black Lace, Dr. Clifford Parks, Fircone Var., Julia, Man Size, Mona Jury & Var., Pleasant Memories, Royal Velvet, Show Time, Valentine Day & Var., Valley Knudsen, and Frank Houser Var. And, although Ville de Nantes did not quite make it to this top 40 list, perhaps we could include it in an honorable mention category along with 10 or 20 more. Finally, I will make a bold prediction and state now that I believe Frank Houser & Var., Royal Velvet and Var., and at least ten more of the most popular camellia varieties today will also appear in the future "Most Popular Camellia Varieties of the Year 2050" list. I hope to still be around to compile this list 25 years from now, but I will make no predictions or promises about that.

It is fun to reflect on the past, but I am just as excited to discover what future camellia introductions will be good enough to displace any of the top 40 most popular camellia varieties today. As history reveals, there will be great new varieties to be discovered.



Dr. Clifford Parks Var (Gilley Strain) Photo Courtesy of Randolph Maphis

ROOT GRAFTING CAMELLIAS

BY JIM PRUCKLER

Root grafting is not a new procedure but is not a commonly performed method of grafting. I first stumbled upon this technique in an article by Ira S. Nelson, "Root-Piece Understock," in the 1947 Camellia Yearbook. Root grafting was discussed again in an article in the 1972 Camellia Yearbook. The author is not credited, but the article about cleft grafting had a section on "root segment grafting." C. D. Cothran also described root grafting in his article, "Unusual Ways of Rooting Camellias" from "The Camellia Review," Vol 66, 2004.

In typical or standard cleft grafting, a rootstock Camellia is cut off about 2 or more inches above the soil, and a new scion is inserted in a cleft in the stump of the rootstock. Extreme care is necessary to line up the Cambium (or Xylum, if you prefer) layers between the rootstock and the scion. Grafting into a 2 to 3-inch section of root is essentially performed the same as a cleft graft, but the orientation of the root piece is important and is described below. Root structure is different from the structure of the trunk and branches; there isn't a defined or discernable Cambium layer in roots to align the scion. Plant biologists refer to the junction between the crown and the roots as they leave the crown as the "Root Stem Transition Zone" (RSTZ). A successful root graft will occur if the scion and root can establish the connections to develop a new RSTZ.

Procedure

The most challenging part of root grafting will be obtaining the necessary roots. I could say that I lovingly and carefully extracted the roots from the ground with the utmost respect, but that would be a lie. It definitely did not happen that way. An accomplice (who will remain nameless) suggested we use a tractor and chain to uproot a nuisance sasanqua that was crowding other plants. This was brutally effective and resulted in a surplus of roots and a large plant base that is being converted into a Bonsai. (see top photo at right)

The soil and clay were removed from the root mass using a low-pressure water spray (see bottom photo at right). The surface of the



roots is more like a skin rather than a bark; it can easily be damaged by high-pressure washing. I believe it is important to maintain the original orientation of the root when grafting. The “top” of the root section is the end closest to the crown. Conversely, the “bottom” of the root section is the section farthest from the crown. The roots move water and minerals up the plant through the stems and branches, while sugars from the leaves move down to the roots for storage. I feel that trying to disrupt this flow pattern by inserting the scion in the bottom of the root section would be counterproductive to establishing a successful graft union and a new RSTZ.

I prefer to use root pieces with a diameter larger than a pencil but smaller than a finger. The roots are more “woody” the larger they get, making it harder to safely make a cut to insert the scion. I cut the roots into about 3-inch sections (see photo at right). A half-inch cut is made in the middle of the “top” end of the root cutting.



A half-inch wedge is made on the scion stem. The scion wedge is dipped into a rooting hormone, and then the scion is inserted into the root piece. Since there is no discernable cambium or xylem on the root piece, I just line the scion up with the edge of the root piece. The graft is then wrapped in a 3M product called “Parafilm M,” available online (see photo at right). I dip the root into rooting hormone and plant the completed root graft in pine bark fines and perlite.

The humidity must be maintained near 100% until the graft shows signs of growth. I use a mist system, but a still box or milk jug with manual misting would also work.



Results

In April, I set up two sets of grafts to see how many successful grafts I would get. I had to remove the grafts from the mist house in June because I needed the space for cuttings. The grafts went outside to my shade structure and were watered once a day throughout the summer. The first set of grafts was Frank Hauser; I had 10 successful grafts and 13 failures, for a success rate of 44%. Using japonicas as scions, I had eight successful grafts and 21 failures for a success rate of 28%. The drought in June and August (less than 2 inches of rain total) where I live may have had some effect on the

success. If I had been able to leave them in the mist house, I might have had better results.

I examined the roots on all of the failed grafts and only 3 out of 34 had no new roots. I set the 31 failed grafts with new roots aside and fertilized them. I will wait to see if any dormant buds form on these root pieces, forming new plants. Hopefully, I can salvage the root sections and get some root stock out of this process for future grafting.

Root grafting may not be something that ever catches on widely. The main drawback is the necessity of getting live roots. On the plus side, with all the gathered materials, multiple grafts can be done swiftly at the kitchen table. If my wife doesn't catch me doing it in the house and makes me move out to do it in my potting shed.



A Successful Ville de Nantes Root Graft

A LONG AND INTERESTING STORY ABOUT HOW CAMELLIA JAPONICA 'ANOAIKA' GOT ITS NAME

By Richard Buggeln and Brad King (edited by J. D. Thomerson)

Randolph Maphis sent me (J. D.) the photo on the next page, emphasizing that 'Anoaika' was one great bloom. He said it will make people take notice and win some awards at shows. I told Randolph that I remembered Richard Buggeln telling me a fascinating story about how this variety eventually got its name, but I could not remember all the details. I emailed Richard and asked him to give me the entire story again. Many of the details and the eventual registration were due to Brad King in California.

Richard Buggeln shared the following information with me. Brad King knew about this seedling that was growing at the home where hybridizer Meyer Piet used to live — on Anoaika Lane in Arcadia, CA. He asked Meyer Piet's widow, Bev, who still lived in the house, if he could remove the plant, and she gave him permission. Brad planted the camellia, but it died after a couple of years. Brad had sent some scions to Gene Phillips in Savannah, GA before it died, and Gene successfully propagated it. About three or four years ago, Brad wanted to register it as 'Meyer Piet' or some variant of that name but could not contact any of the Meyer Piet family to gain permission. Richard and Brad knew that Meyer had a daughter (but did not know her name) and a son, Phil Piet. At one time, Phil lived in Flagstaff, AZ, and worked as a conductor on the Grand Canyon Railroad. He later moved to Florida and was in contact with Randolph Maphis, who got him plants that Phil made into a memorial



Camellia Japonica 'Anoaika' (Photo Taken by Randolph Maphis)

garden. Later, Phil moved from Florida, and all contact with him was lost. For a year or two, I tried locating Phil on the Internet to no avail.

About a year or two ago, I was again surfing the Internet and found a Phil Piet in an orchestra in Flagstaff, but that is all. I contacted the orchestra director, who put me in touch with Phil's ex-wife, a realtor who lived in Winslow, AZ, a town east of Flagstaff. She got me in touch with Phil, who was also living in Winslow, and at that time, I passed this contact information off to Brad.

Brad contacted Phil asking permission to name this seedling 'Meyer Piet' in honor of Phil's father. Phil contacted his sister, and the two decided that Meyer would not have wanted the bloom named after him. Brad called Gene and told him this news and the two of them decided to name the bloom 'Anoaika,' the name of the street in front of Meyer's old house where the seedling originated. Brad then completed the registration documents and this most deserving bloom was officially named — but it was a very long and tedious process. The bloom did not get the name "Meyer Piet" that Brad had initially wanted, but it got registered with an interesting name, 'Anoaika,' and it had an even more interesting story.

A MARVELOUS TIME WAS HAD IN BEAUTIFUL SAVANNAH

The 2024 ACCS Convention held this Fall in Savannah, GA was a wonderful event. Hopefully, the photos below and on the following pages will help everyone remember the fun we all experienced. Pictured below is an iconic photo of historic downtown Savannah and below that is our Auctioneer Extraordinaire Tommy Alden with Bob Black “Doing His Thing.” The opposite page shows photos of our amazing Monday night dinner location. ACCS Members enjoying the formal banquet Tuesday evening is shown on p. 28—29







Jonanne & Tom Beckman

ACCS Members Enjoying the Tuesday Evening Formal Banquet. Please forgive me if I missed your photo. I will try again next year — J. D.



Kristi Howard, Marsha Zeagler, & Gene Phillips



Peggy McGuirk



Jack Dewar, Cathy Kubeny, Ross Kubeny, and Judy Capps



Kay & J. D. Thomerson



Charles Simon, Robin and Marty Cross



Lyn & Dennis Hart



Mary & Howard Rhodes



Bob & Sandy Black



Susan Walker & Mac McKinnon



John and Nina Gentry



Forrest & Kathy Latta



Karen and Bruce Lewis



Fred & Sandra Jones



Brenda and Tommy Alden



Diane and Marty Clark



John and Penny Scarpucci



Preston and Miriam Phillips



David & Sandra Williams



Fred and Toni McKenna



Billy Ray and Maureen Price



Fred and Madelyn Phillips



Richard and Ginny Mohr



Tommy Martin



Stewart Tomlinson



Carol Selph



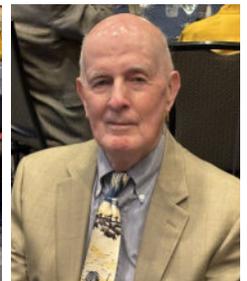
Philip Thomas and Teri McCathern



Mark Crawford & Matthew Israel



Steve Bott and Tom Nunnenkamp



John Swanson

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society State Director Reports for 2024

State Directors Report Georgia Submitted by Sandra Jones

Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Middle Georgia Camellia Society kicked off this year's activities with an opportunity to learn about and practice gibbing at the Alden's nursery and garden. They have monthly meetings. They have planned their calendar and look forward to a very busy year.

DATES TO REMEMBER: September 12 Membership Mtg, October 11 Low Country Boil, October 12-13 Fair Show, November 14 Membership Mtg, December 5 Christmas Meeting, January 25 Workshop, February 21 Judges Reception, February 22-23 Flint Show, March 13 Membership Meeting, April 26 Workday/Auction/Picnic

Middle Georgia hosts two shows every year. This year the first will be October 14 at the Georgia National Fair and the second will be February 24, 2024 at Masee Lane. This club works closely with ACS. Many of the members volunteer regularly. On April 16, 2024, David Williams along with Jim Pruckler, North Georgia Camellia Society member and Middle Georgia Camellia Society volunteer; and ACS employees Gerald Albright and William Khoury leveled the Honorees Monument located just south of the Fetterman Building Plaza at Masee Lane Gardens. It had been leaning for several years. The club also has a work day in April at Masee Lane to help prune and care for the camellias in the Sun-Trial Garden.

November 11, 2023, Middle Georgia will hold a workshop at Masee featuring sessions on growing camellias successfully, planting camellias, waxing camellias, grafting and air layering, and using camellias in floral arrangements. The Middle Georgia Camellia Society truly is an outstanding club.

Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society

Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society will have a gibbing workshop/garden tour of the Sam M. Wellborn Camellia Garden in the Old Town Camellia Garden early in December. They will have a board meeting in January. They have meetings before their show and when needed.

Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society had a very successful show at Old Town center in March and is looking forward to holding a camellia show with flower sales the first Saturday in March in 2025.

Mr. Sam Wellborn continues to be instrumental in assisting a new club, Greensboro Camellia Society, in Greenville Alabama, planning their show in February. He has also

assisted them with plans for improving and expanding their camellia garden in Beeland Park Gardens.

Wiregrass Camellia Society

Wiregrass Camellia Society held monthly meetings this past year in members home or at the Episcopal Church in Quitman, Georgia. They kicked off the new season, September 8th, with a meeting at the Quitman Episcopal Church. Billy Ray Price presented a program on gibbing and distributed prepared gib. Plans and dates have been set for the coming year along with a list of potential speakers and topics that included container camellias, John Wang collections, care and growing of camellias, and tea camellias. A calendar for 2024 -2025 has been developed.

Wiregrass Camellia Society continues to support the Quitman Garden Club for their ACS sanctioned show the first week in February. Many of the Wiregrass members are members of both organizations. At the first meeting, the Wiregrass club voted to make a donation to assist with the restoration of the Sara Oliver Garden, dedicated to Huly and Janet Smith in Valdosta, Georgia. Members were also asked to volunteer time and experience.

The second annual workshop on camellia identification, propagation of camellias, planting and caring for camellias, waxing camellias, camellia organizations, along with selling camellia plants was held at Pebble Hill Plantation in February. The club voted that another one be held again this coming February. This partnership had helped attract new members and has proved beneficial to both organizations.

Wiregrass Camellia Society had a show and plant sell last November 4th and 5th in Boston, Georgia. Plans are underway for another this November 2nd and 3rd.

Virginia State Director's Report Submitted by Toni McKenna

This year, the Virginia Camellia Society (VCS) made a concerted effort to broaden the club's exposure to the public, and to schedule activities throughout the year. As a result, VCS has successfully increased its membership as the club made valuable new partnerships and refreshed long standing relationships.

During 2024, VCS partnered in various programs with the local Master Gardener Programs, the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, the Chesapeake Arboretum, the Red Wing Park in Virginia Beach, a public elementary school in Norfolk, VA and the Norfolk Zoo. By reaching out broadly to the public, we increase both the appreciation and knowledge of camellias and cast our net out for new members. Examples of our efforts include teaming with both the Norfolk Zoo and Red Wing Park where these organizations have cleared areas for new or expanded camellia gardens. Soon, VCS will

be planting camellias in these locations, significantly increasing the knowledge and exposure of camellias to the public.

This past spring, Virginia Camellia Society was again invited to the Spring Garden Fest at Tarrallton Elementary School, Norfolk, VA. The enthusiasm of the children is amazing as they stop by the VCS table for tea tastings. The society planted a *C. sinensis* in their school pollinator garden donated by VCS member Bob Black. The club voted to donate five more camellia plants to the school. Each event allows us to share our camellia interest with the local community through teaching, propagating, planting, pruning, gibbing and showing camellias.

The Norfolk Botanical, Hoffmeier Camellia Garden acts as a living classroom every April and August when VCS hosts a “hands-on how-to” air layer session. This year over 125 air layers are harvested and sold at local events. Every year, VCS donates the proceeds from the air layer sales to Norfolk Botanical Garden.

VCS also continues to maintain and utilize the Chesapeake Arboretum. Here the camellias have grown both in size and number. Members from VCS worked hard over the course of the year to maintain the camellias and hosted instructional workshops for the public.

The Virginia Camellia Society continues to host two camellia shows annually, a Fall Camellia Show in November and a Spring Camellia Show in March. Although many of our seasoned show growers have aged out of actively participating in our shows, it has been heartening to see new members increasing their camellia collections and camellia knowledge. As a result, our Spring 2024 show had 790 blooms exhibited representing a record number of show blooms. Our camellia friends from North Carolina and Northern Virginia help make our local show a big success.

This November VCS will embark on a new venture hosting our Fall Camellia Show and Plant Sale at the Norfolk Zoo. We believe this venue will expose us to a much larger and younger audience. A new activity during this event will be a camellia planting demonstration in the new camellia area at the Zoo.

The Virginia Camellia Society remains healthy and active. We invite you to our 2024 Fall Show on November 16, 2024.

**South Carolina State Directors Report
Submitted by Philip Thomas**

The South Carolina clubs recovered nicely from the devastating freeze we had during the 22-23 blooming season, and had a very good year. Memberships are doing well, and the show statistics were up from the previous year. The South Carolina show

season began with the South Carolina State Fair Show in Columbia hosted by the Mid-Carolina Society on October 20, 2023. They had an excellent show with 444 blooms although having only 19 exhibitors. As usual, they hosted exhibitors from the three-state region.

David Whitaker reports that the Coastal Carolina (Charleston) Club is doing well. Membership count is holding steady and may be up slightly, despite the difficulties encountered during the covid pandemic and the hard freeze we had winter before last. Meeting attendance has just about doubled from where it was just after the pandemic. Finances are in good order and this year's show was a huge success. From the 2023 to the 2024 shows, the number of blooms exhibited increased from 550 to approximately 850 blooms, and the number of exhibitors increased from 26 to 32.

The Grand Strand Club is also doing well these days. Mac McKinnon reports that meeting attendance is good with about 20 to 25 members at each meeting. Each year they have a grafting session, an air layering event, and a spring luncheon, and their show and plant sale will be in February again this year. Mac said they are planning a visit to a beekeepers facility, and it should be a "stinging experience". The statistics from this year's show also increased from 422 to 1,080 blooms, and from 33 to 57 exhibitors. Mac also said we should all check out the great pictures on their website!

The Aiken Society had over 450 blooms at its show in January, despite an unfortunate freeze just days before the show. There were 39 exhibitors and almost 1000 attendees! The society had an average attendance at monthly meetings of 30 people and the most successful auction ever in February. Social media has gotten a much need update and an exciting slate of activities are planned for this season beginning with a Camellia Ghost Walk through the Saint Thaddeous cemetery.

With Mid-Carolina kicking off the season once again at the South Carolina State Fair on October 18th the South Carolina Societies are looking forward to an outstanding season.

Florida State Directors Report Submitted by Jerry Selph

Camellia Society of Central Florida (Orlando)

The post Covid period is still beneficial to the Society. Still having growing interest in Camellias and growing them. Membership is still growing and attendance at their regularly scheduled meetings is steady to growing. The annual show is still a growing success.

Lakeland Camellia Society

The Lakeland Camellia Society is still meeting on their regular schedule. The members are enjoying the pertinent meeting topics, and their attendance and membership

reflect that. They are currently enjoying an active membership of 40 growers. They are continuing to hold their very successful show and sale.

Ocala Camellia Society

The Ocala society is still experiencing steady growth and great participation. They currently boast an active membership of 70 growers. They have regularly scheduled meetings during the fall and winter months. Their show is a highlight of their year with great participation from members and guest growers from around the state of Florida and some from Georgia as well!

Gainesville Camellia Society

The Gainesville Society has really got their Society in the fast lane. With over 35 members, their attendance and participation are legendary. They have regularly scheduled meetings featuring pertinent topics for the camellia grower members. They also work on a regular basis at the Wilmont Garden at the University of Florida. This includes donating and selling 50 Camellia Plants to help fund expenses at the garden.

Their show is a major part of their activity year. This show is well attended by growers, members, and outside Judges. The public usually brings in thousands of observers of the show. This year in addition to their long list of activities they are adding the Sponsorship of the National American Camellia Society Convention. We wish their brave and determined officers and hard-working members the best of luck in this endeavor!

Tallahassee Camellia Society Report

Submitted by Howard Rhodes

This last year has been a good year for the club. The annual show was successful with nearly 1500 blooms shown. At the end of the year a picnic was held at McClay state park. Many of the members had a good time eating and socializing among the oaks and camellias. We have three members that are novice judges on their way to becoming fully sanctioned judges.

As with most organizations a web site is a must and Tallahassee is no exception. But a web site is stale if not monitored and acted on. Fortunately, we have one or more members that have monitored our site and reported that 60 - 70% of the questions from the public had to do with how to prune camellias and who could do it. Our club president coordinated a response. It is not a single answer as it depends on what the person wants from the camellia. A multi-page paper was developed that could be sent out to respond to future questions.

(Additional ACCS State Reports will be included in the May 2024 ACCS Journal)

ACCS STATE DIRECTORS

State	Name	Term
Florida	Jerry Selph	2022-2024
Florida	Howard Rhodes	2022-2024
Georgia	Gene Phillips	2023-2025
Georgia	Sandra Jones	2023-2025
Louisiana	Jim Campbell	2022-2024
Maryland	Richard Mohr	2023-2025
North Carolina	John Fields	2023-2025
North Carolina	Cathy Kubeny	2023-2025
South Carolina	Paul Cloessner	2022-2024
South Carolina	Philip Thomas	2022-2024
Virginia	Toni McKenna	2022-2024
At Large	Vacant	2022-2024

Join NOW! — The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

A membership entitles you to a journal published in January, May, and September and full access to ACCS Website. To join, send your check and membership info below to:

**ACCS, Fred C. Jones
2056 Dunn Road
Moultrie, GA 31768**

Yearly Membership (Single or Double): \$25.00 Lifetime Membership: \$500

Note: The Information below can be printed on a separate sheet of paper instead of tearing out of the Journal.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone # (include Area Code): _____

E-Mail: _____



Camellia Non-Retic Hybrid (Seedling JDT #17)
Soon to be Registered as 'Katie Thomerson'