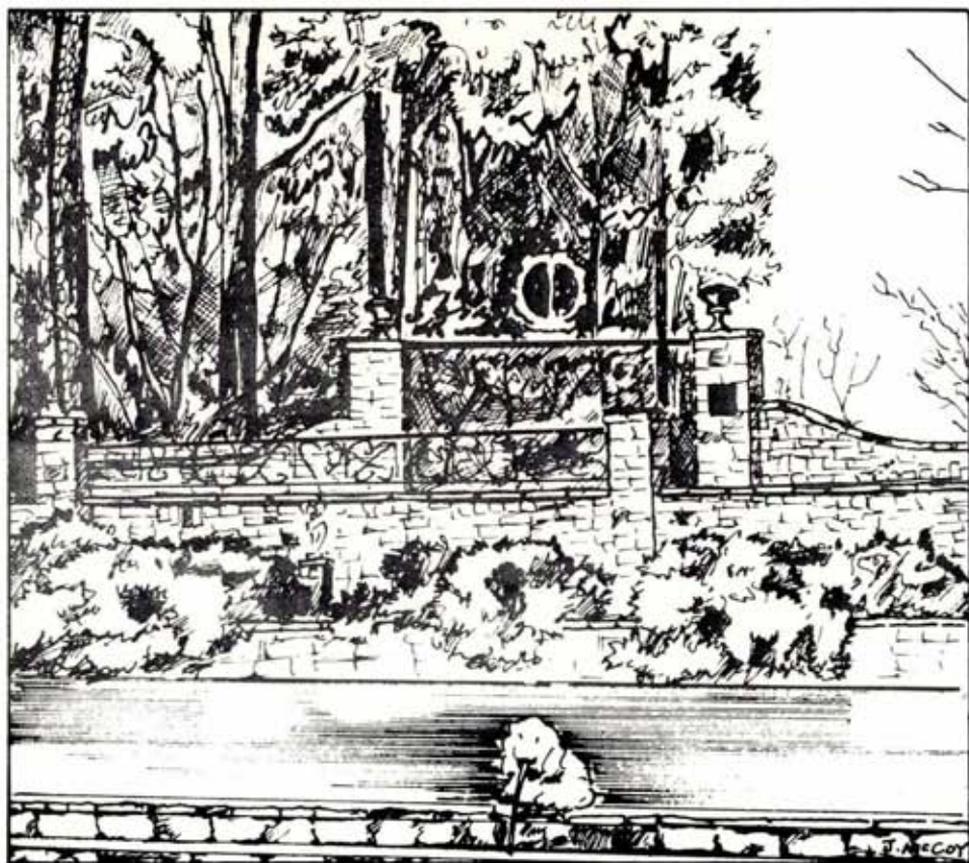


# Carolina Camellias



## In Memorium

Gustav George Gerbing, "Gus" to his many friends, died January 25th at his home in Fernandina Beach, FL, after a long illness. He was 84 years of age.

During his long active life, he never lost his love for camellias. Gus started growing camellias for sale in 1923, some 61 years ago. He owned and operated the Gerbing Camellia Nursery from 1932 to 1946. In 1943 he published "Camellias", the first comprehensive, all color, camellia book in America. He was a charter member of The American Camellia Society. He was an honorary member of International Mark Twain Society and of the Eugene Field Society of American Authors. He was a long time active member of the Fernandina Beach Mens' Garden Club, and could always be depended on for an interesting and instructive program. He was in demand for programs for the several woman's garden clubs of Fernandina Beach.

He is survived by his wife, of some sixty years, Azelda Elaine, three daughters and a son. It was a privilege to have known Gus. He will be missed by his many friends.

## SPECIAL AWARD FOR CHRYSANTHA HYBRIDS

The Dallas, TX Camellia Society has announced a special award for the best specimen bloom hybridized from the yellow camellia chrysantha. Carol Greenberg, President, stated the award was established in the memory of Imogene Fitzgerald through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Waller C. Boedeker.

Imogene Fitzgerald was a retired court reporter for the federal government and one of the outstanding amateur oil painters of the southwestern United States. Four members of the Dallas Camellia Society own pictures she painted of their winning blooms.

Waller Boedeker, a prominent Dallas automobile dealer and civic leader, is a horticulture hobbyist. Sarah Boedeker is the sister of the late Miss Fitzgerald. their contribu-

tion to the Dallas Camellia Society consisted of a "Camellias Forever" membership in honor of her.

President Greenberg stated that until 1994, the Imogene Fitzgerald award, which will be made at the annual camellia show of the Dallas Camellia Society, is designed to stimulate the development of new hybrid camellia flowers. It will be for the best specimen bloom hybridized from the camellia chrysantha or from a hybrid developed by Frank Pursel of Oakland, CA, using *C. chrysantha* as one of the parents.

In creating this award, the Boedekers said that they hoped it would stimulate hybridization and speed up the infusion of the melon, peach, orange, lemon, apricot, etc., hues in camellia blooms.

# Carolina Camellias

Published three times annually — Winter, Spring, Fall — for the members of the South Carolina, North Carolina and the Virginia Camellia Societies.

Published by the South Carolina Camellia Society, Inc.

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# Editor's Page



I did not attend the ACS convention in Orlando. I enjoy these events and would have enjoyed this one too. Since I joined ACS, I have missed very few. I have attended 2 in California, 3 in Florida and so many in Mobile till I feel like a native son.

There are several reasons why it did not suit me to go to Orlando, but when I saw the cost, it wasn't hard to say, "Let's skip this one." ACS conventions are getting too expensive. Just look at the record:

<u>year</u>	<u>place</u>	<u>registration fee</u>	<u>hotel, dbl. rm.</u>
1974	Sacramento	\$ 50.00	\$19.00
1976	Nashville	65.00	32.00
1978	Ft. Walton Beach	42.00	20.00
1980	Jackson	60.00	45.00
1982	Charlotte	90.00	60.00
1984	Orlando	100.00	55.00

In 10 years the registration fee has doubled and the hotel room rates have tripled! "This is nothing to complain about," some would say. "Everything else has doubled or tripled so why shouldn't they?" Well, my income has not tripled or doubled, and that of most of my friends has not either. The registration fees and hotel rooms are not the only expenses incurred in attending ACS conventions. There is transportation to the convention, and cost of meals not furnished in the registration fee.

I do not fault the convention planners. They have to measure up to standards that have become expected. The motel must be the most luxurious one in town, one with convention amenities. There must be buses to haul delegates from place to place. The meals must be in the

convention hotel or some well known, famous and expensive dining room.

Of course, ACS has many members with incomes in 6 figures, but they are certainly not the majority. I believe that the majority of ACS members are middle class with middle class incomes. Middle class incomes don't permit too many conventions with \$100.00 registration fees and hotel rooms at \$55.00 or \$60.00 a night!

I have never been involved in planning and pulling off an ACS convention. Perhaps these high prices are just symptomatic of the times. Perhaps my friends in Orlando, Dallas and Charlotte are saying as they read this, "Brother, you're just whistling in the wind." and Maybe I am.

But I see how reasonable is the cost of attending a **regional** camellia society convention like those of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society and the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society and I wonder if ACS convention planners wouldn't be smart if they took some notice and followed their lead.

At the Gulf Coast Camellia convention, the Friday evening party is in the greenhouse at Belle Fontaine nursery. I can't think of a more appropriate place for a party. The Atlantic Coast Friday evening party is around the motel pool. In both places the delegates can roam around, greeting old friends, making new ones, talking camellias and having a glorious time. The food is furnished by those attending. The banquet Saturday night is at Bayley's Seafood Restaurant in Mobile and at the Convention Center in Myrtle Beach. There are also various other opportunities to "meet and greet",

such as brunches, bloody mary parties and hospitality rooms. No buses and no tourist attractions included in the registration fee. But the registration fee for the Gulf Coast Convention was only \$52.50 for a couple (if my records are correct) and only \$41.00 for Atlantic Coast.

People don't attend ACS conventions to enjoy luxuriously appointed hotel rooms. Their homes are better furnished than most hotel rooms. They don't attend for the lavish food and drink that might be served, either. Their refrigerators and pantries contain all the food and drink they want. Why then, do they? Because they genuinely like each other! A stranger observing camellia people arriving for a convention and greeting each other is sure that he is witnessing the gathering of a family or a clan, and a very loving one at that!

## NOTICE

Those of you who were members of North Carolina Camellia Society before its demise will have to be a member of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in order to continue receiving Carolina Camellias. I urge you to join right now, before you forget, if you are not already a member. This is the last issue of Carolina Camellias that

will be mailed to anyone who is not a member of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society unless arrangements have been made with A.C.C.S. to be included on the mailing list. Membership is \$9.00 for a couple and \$6.00 for a single. Please send your check to Mr. Latimer McClintock, 1325 E. Barden Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

## ABOUT THE COVER DRAWING

This is a drawing of the International Azalea Festival Court which was built in 1953 for the purpose of holding a joint celebration with NATO, which has its headquarters in Norfolk, VA.

The Azalea Festival is generally held the last week in April each year. The Azalea Queen is selected from one of the NATO nations. The

remaining NATO nations send a representative as a princess to the festival.

The Azalea Court is part of the 175 acre Norfolk Botanical Gardens and is internationally known for its collection of azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons and flowering ornamental shrubs and trees.

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

At the fall meeting of the South Carolina Camellia Society held at Myrtle Beach last October, a decision was made by the membership for the existing officers of the society with the exception of the treasurer, to continue in office during the period of the proposed merger of the South Carolina Camellia Society with the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.

The board of directors of the South Carolina Camellia Society agreed to the proposed merger after which it was presented to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. The A.C.C.S. membership accepted the proposals, predicated on the approval of the S.C.C.S. membership. The S.C.C.S. membership will address this most important question at the spring 1984 meeting. Every S.C.C.S. member will receive a letter detailing the proposal as well as the time and location of the meeting.

It is most important that all members of the S.C.C.S. pay their 1984 dues as these funds are necessary to pay for this issue of Carolina Camellias as well as any operating expenses incurred until the merger is completed.

Let me repeat, this is the recommendation of the board of directors and only that. We, your officers, will certainly follow the dictates of the membership and look forward to any ideas and/or alternatives.

Geary Serpas, President

## **VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

At this writing, early in January, we are experiencing the most severe winter we have had during the life of the society.

On Christmas Eve, we had winds in excess of 50 miles per hour. The temperature went down to 7 degrees with a wind chill factor of 20 to 25 degrees below zero. I have checked with Bob Matthews, curator of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, and he tells me that in checking more than 200 varieties of camellias (including 'Berenice Boddy') he could not find a single bud that had not been severely damaged. Several of our larger growers tell me the same thing. Therefore, upon taking a vote of the members of the board, it was unanimously decided to cancel the spring show. I know it must be discouraging to camellia lovers, so let's hope for better weather in the future.

My wife and I had a delightful time when we attended the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society's meeting at Myrtle Beach. It was a real pleasure to see so many of our old friends and to hear about the new varieties. I hope that many of our old members will join the A.C.C.S.

As most of you know, we are a local society encompassing Tidewater Virginia. Since this is the case, there will be no change in our society. We hope that the A.C.C.S. will continue the publication of this journal.

Let us keep up our spirits in spite of the weather, and hope for the best.

E. M. (Gene) Worrell, President

## HOW TO SELL A CAMELLIA

At the meeting of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society at Myrtle Beach this year, there was a plant auction and other activities to raise money for the ACS endowment fund. As a result, a check for \$1785.69 was sent to Masee Lane. The plant auction, besides raising money, was a lot of fun for everybody. Our two auctioneers, Bill Robertson and Buck Mizell, had more fun than anybody and did a great job of getting high bids for every item auctioned! As an indication of their expertize, I can tell you that they sold one plant for \$40.00, another for \$45.00 and another, 'Gypsy Rose', for \$80.00! Part of this auction was taped. We have their performance relative to the auction of 'Hulyn Smith' and thought you would be interested in reading about it. Here it is.

"Here's 'Hulyn Smith'. Whoo-ee, that's a pretty flower!" Mizell.

From the back of the room, "Ten cents."

A lot of laughter.

"OK." Robertson. "This is a fine, strong plant of 'Hulyn Smith'. It's really a great flower! Everyone who saw it in Charleston two years ago saw Hulyn win. It's a big pink . . ."

"Keep talking!" A Valdosta accent.

"They tell me it's got all the good attributes of 'Lasca Beauty' only it's really just a better flower than 'Lasca Beauty'. At least that's what they say."

"Say that again." A Valdosta accent.

"I don't want to let yo' head git too big, now." Mizell.

From the audience, "If I win it, can I change the name?"

A lot of laughter.

"No!" Valdosta accent.

"Let's start this plant off at fifteen dollars." Robertson. "Good, healthy, strong graft, healed all the way through. A good, light soil mix, well drained. Look at the leaves on that plant. Super good!"

"Fifteen dollars, right here. We're looking for twenty-five. This is a great plant!"

"Twenty-five, over here. We're looking for thirty dollars. This is a super plant, a super flower. We've got twenty-five, we're looking for thirty!"

"Thirty, we got. Looking for thirty-two."

"We got thirty-two. We're looking for thirty-five now. Thirty-five we got. Looking for thirty-seven!"

"Thirty-seven, we got. Looking for forty!"

"Looking for forty. Looking for forty. Forty we got! You don't find plants like that . . . We're looking for forty-two!"

"We're looking for forty-two."

"Forty-two?"

"Let's try forty-one, one time." Mizell.

"Looking for forty-one." Robertson. "Forty-one?"

"You all gonna let this plant go on back across the line to North Carolina? Mizell. "You know who's gonna win the shows now. You might get this thing for forty-one dollars. I won't promise you, but you might!"

"Come on. Forty-one dollars, one time." Robertson.

"Look's like dey got de lock jaw!" Mizell.

"Forty-one, your last chance!"

"Forty once. Forty twice."

"Give that baby a happy home!" Valdosta accent.

Carolina Camellias

# THE NEED FOR FALL-FLOWERING CAMELLIA JAPONICA CULTIVARS

Luther W. Baxter, Jr., and Susan G. Fagan<sup>1</sup>

The weather is not predictable! Nothing startlingly new about that, but winters in the Piedmont of South Carolina usually have at least one period when the temperature falls between 0 and 15 F. In addition, there are years when these low temperatures occur as early as November, while in other years these hard freezes may occur as late as February or even March. In 1983, the temperature of 5 F (official U.S. weather report) occurred on the mornings of December 25 and 26. In contrast, on December 24, the senior author cut 5 roses from his garden and many *Camellia sasanqua* cultivars were near their peak flowering period. Also, some of the gibbed *C. japonica* cultivars, such as Rev. John Drayton, were blooming.

Many people in the South Carolina Piedmont enjoy growing camellias out-of-doors. Because of the unpredictable weather in the upper Piedmont of South Carolina, outdoor camellias perform well in some years and in others are ruined by cold weather. In these areas, experience has shown that treatment of individual camellia buds with gibberellic acid is the best way known to insure good flowers in the fall. Most camellia growers in this area do not have greenhouse facilities; and, generally speaking, they are not well versed in the practice of applying gibberellic acid to camellia flower buds to encourage them to bloom early. Those who have had experience with

outside gibbing realize that if 50 mature camellia flower buds on the same plant are gibbed, they may vary as to the time of opening by as much as 3 to 4 weeks. Also known to experienced "gibbers" is that *C. japonica* cultivars differ widely in their response to gibberellic acid. At Clemson, South Carolina, outdoor plants of *C. japonica* cultivars, such as Rev. John Drayton, Debutante (best cultivar response to gibbing), and Governor Mouton, respond well year after year of gibbing. Cultivars, such as Mona Monique, Professor Sargent, and Flame, respond well to gibbing in some years but not in others. Then there are those cultivars, such as Paulette Goddard, that never respond satisfactorily to gibbing.

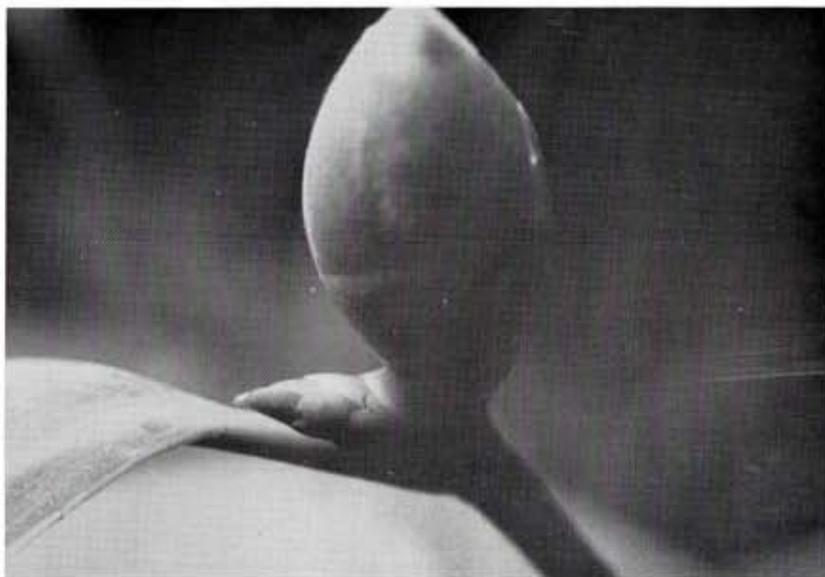
In order for gibbing to be effective, the flower buds and the adjacent vegetative buds must be mature at the time the gib is applied. The application of gib to immature buds does not work. There are, however, some cultivars that show mature, well-developed buds in early September, when gibbing must be done for best results, and still do not respond well to gibbing. Therefore, in selecting cultivars of *C. japonica* for use in the Clemson area, it is essential that we select those cultivars that mature their buds early in the fall and then eliminate those that fail to respond consistently to gibbing.

During work at Clemson with camellias over the past 18 years several *C. japonica* seedlings have been found which respond well to gibbing. Figure 1 reveals a mature flower bud and a very nice mature lateral vegetative bud on an un-

<sup>1</sup>Professor and AG Science Asst., Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631.

named, open-pollinated **C. japonica** seedling. The large, well-developed, lateral, contiguous vegetative bud can be easily removed to permit application of gib. Mature flower buds of another nearby seedling of the same age (from open-pollinated Ville de Nantes seed) was treated at the same time; but, although they

open in the fall, even when gibbed. The next few statements are opinions without experimental data to support them, but they represent an attempt to explain the above phenomenon. This past summer, particularly July and August 1983, there were many hot days when the temperatures were at, or above 100 F.



*Fig. 1 - Mature, non-gibbed flower bud (September 1983) and contiguous, mature vegetative bud of an unknown seedling. Gibs well.*

swelled, these buds had not opened by Christmas Day. Incidentally, it has been my experience that buds that have swollen appreciably at the time of a severe freeze (as our temperature of 5 F on Christmas morning) are killed on outdoor plants, whether or not they have the protection of an overhead pine canopy.

The question arises as to why some **C. japonica** cultivars vary so greatly in response to gibbing from year to year. For example, in some years Mona Monique has mature flower buds that, when gibbed on or about September 1, will open by Thanksgiving at the latest; while in other years it has buds which will not

From reliable studies on many other plant species, it is known that a plant's respiration rate rises faster than the photosynthetic rate as the temperature rises so that a point (high temperature) is reached where respiration equals photosynthesis; and the plant uses in respiration all the energy it produces by photosynthesis. We suggest that during these hot spells, the plants may not gain in total carbohydrates stored, or they may even lose some of that which had been stored previously; and then, to put it bluntly, the plant just sits there without further growth or maturation of either the flower buds or the vegetative buds in spite of the

fact that adequate minerals and water have been applied properly. Thus flower bud development in the summer of 1983 and flower bud opening from "gibbing" in the fall were later than in 1982 because of the extremely high temperatures during some of the 1983 summer days, as compared with the cooler summer of 1982.

In order to stimulate the development of cultivars adapted to the upper Piedmont, I would like to encourage growers of **C. japonica** seedlings to gib them over a period of several years and keep those that perennially respond well to gibbing. Flowers that are not as desirable as 'Showtime', 'Tomorrow', or the 'Betty Sheffield' group might be very worthwhile as outside camellias in the cooler zones of the "Camellia Belt" simply because they respond consistently well to gibbing. If several leading camellia growers would take the first step and gib some of their camellia seedlings which have slightly less appeal to their trained eye and select those that respond well consistently, they could provide a valuable service to the upper Piedmont growers. We, in the cooler areas, might sacrifice that extra touch of excellence, which their discerning eye requires for naming, for a less desirable flower that will

perform dependably for us. Thus, these **C. japonica** seedlings that respond consistently well to gibbing might prove to be useful to us in the colder parts of the camellia growing areas.

While we, in the northern part of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, or the western parts of North Carolina and Virginia, or the southern parts of Tennessee and Maryland may be interested in results of camellia gibbing in Mobile, Charleston, Tallahassee, or New Orleans, the cultivars that do well there may be of little use to us who raise **Camellia japonica** cultivars outdoors in the colder part of the camellia belt.

To summarize the gist of this discussion, we need **C. japonica** cultivars that will dependably provide fall flowers as a result of gibbing since our weather is very unpredictable and we cannot expect good flowers in many years unless we gib.

During the normal spring flowering period of most **C. japonica** cultivars, we may or may not have good flowers: and we may be willing to use dependable **C. japonica** cultivars that will nearly always bloom in the fall over those more traditional cultivars which for us are not very dependable for spring flowers.

Appreciation is expressed to Dr. W. M. Epps, Professor Emeritus, for his help in editing, and to Dr. Dave Lewis, photographer, for the print.



I have read many comments regarding the newly released reticulatas from China. I don't think we should be too quick to write them off as being run of the mill. They may well turn out to be so, but they need to be given a chance. One or two years blooms are not enough to prove anything. I remember reading an article by Colonel Tom Durrant regarding the original Yunnan reticulatas in which he commented that it was five years before the plants settled down and began to produce worthwhile blooms.

Robert Atkinson, Victoria, Australia  
Editor ACRS Newsletter

# SHOW REPORTS

## AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Chadds Ford, PA      October 27-28, 1983

### Japonicas, Grown in Open:

Best large-very large: 'Mary Agnes Patin', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

Runner-Up: 'Tiffany', Edwin L. Atkins.

Best medium-small: 'Nuccio's Jewel', Steve Campbell.

Runner-Up: 'Ave Maria', G. E. Davis.

### Japonicas, Grown Protected:

Best large-very large: 'Tomorrow, Var' Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Copeland.

Runner-Up: 'Mathotiana Supreme, Var', Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.

Best medium-small: 'Campari', Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Fetterman.

Runner-Up: 'Feathery Touch', Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Copeland.

### Best Miniature: 'Man Size', Mr. & Mrs. John Geiser.

Runner-Up: 'Hopkin's Pink', Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Copeland.

### Best Reticulata: 'Dr. Clifford Parks', Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Racoff.

Runner-Up: 'Miss Tulare', Jim Grant.

### Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Mona Jury', Paul & C. D. Scheibert.

### Best Other Specie or Hybrid: 'Mini-No-Yuki', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

### Best Fragrant Camellia: 'Seedling 6S', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

Runner-Up: Seedling, Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

### Best Seedling: Number 1221, Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

### Best White Bloom: 'Charlie Bettes', Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

### Sweepstakes: Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

### Sweepstakes Runner-Up: Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Copeland.

### Honor Court:

'White Empress', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

'Funny Face Betty', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

'Imp, Var', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.

'Magic City', Edwin L. Atkins.

'Miss Charleston, Var', Edwin L. Atkins.

'In the Pink', Jim Grant.

'Marie Bracey', G. E. Davis.

'Helen Bower', Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Fetterman.

'Winifred Womack', Mr. & Mrs. John Geiser.

'Little Babe, Var.', Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Copeland.

Blooms Shown: 248

Show Chairman: Arthur Maryott

## COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

First annual show at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens

November 6, 1983

### Best in Open: 'Marie Bracey, Var', Donna & Bill Shepherd.

Runner-Up: 'Aspasia McArthur', Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Racoff.

- Best Protected: 'Tomorrow, Var', Mrs. J. C. Bickley.  
 Runner-Up: 'Kick Off', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman.
- Best Seedling: Donna & Bill Shepherd.
- Best Non-Retic hybrid in open: 'Charlean', Donna & Bill Shepherd.
- Best Reticulata in Open: 'Black Lace', Harold & Cecile Bauer.
- Best Non-Retic Hybrid Protected: 'Anticipation', Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.
- Best Retic Protected: 'Lila Naff', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.
- Best 'Miss Charleston' grown in open: Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.
- Best 'Miss Charleston' grown protected: Mrs. J. C. Bickley.
- Best Quad-County Outdoor Bloom: 'Moonlight Bay',  
 Donna & Bill Shepherd.
- Best Novice Bloom: 'Mathotiana', Mrs. Lilly Werts.
- Best Outdoor Bloom Originated By Magnolia Gardens: 'Debutante',  
 Harold and Cecile Bauer.
- Sweepstakes:  
 Grown in Open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.  
 Runner-Up: Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
 Grown Protected: Annabelle & Lew Fetterman.  
 Runner-Up: Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.
- Court of Honor, Grown in Open:  
 'Carter's Sunburst', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
 'Evetta Moyer', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
 'Mathotiana', Mr. & Mrs. L. G. Wilhelm.  
 'Beauty of Holland', Donna & Bill Shepherd.  
 'Gus Menard', Donna & Bill Shepherd.
- Court of Honor, Grown Protected:  
 'Margaret Davis', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman.  
 'Campari', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman.  
 'Mary Alice Cox', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
 'Mary Agnes Patin', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
 'Gus Menard', Mrs. J. C. Bickley.  
 'Campari, Var', Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.
- Blooms Shown: 454

Parker E. Connor, President

## **COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

### **Charleston, SC    November 19-20, 1983**

- Best Bloom Grown in Open: 'Tomorrow's Tropic Dawn',  
 Donna & Bill Shepherd.  
 Runner-Up: 'Mathotiana Rubra', Jack Wilhelm.
- Best Bloom Protected: 'Tiffany', Joe Austin.  
 Runner-Up: 'Harriet Bisbee', Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Robertson.
- Best Seedling: Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.
- Best Non-Retic Hybrid Grown in Open: 'Anticipation',  
 Parker E. Connor, Jr.
- Best Non-Retic Hybrid Protected: 'Debbie', Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Robertson.
- Best Reticulata Protected: 'Massee Lane', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman.
- Best 'Miss Charleston' Grown in Open: Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.
- Best 'Miss Charleston' Protected: C. T. Freeman.

Best Novice Bloom: 'Alba Plena', Dr. & Mrs. Henry C. Robertson.  
Sweepstakes: Gold Grown in Open, Parker E. Connor, Jr.  
Silver Grown in Open, Donna & Bill Shepherd.  
Sweepstakes: Gold Grown Protected, Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.  
Silver Grown Protected, Joe Austin.

Court of Honor, Grown in Open:

'Tamsin Coull', Richardson M. Hanckel.  
'Carter's Sunburst', Richardson M. Hanckel.  
'Granada', Parker E. Connor, Jr.  
'Candy Cane', Parker E. Connor, Jr.  
'Magnoliaeflora', Donna & Bill Shepherd.  
'Betty Sheffield', Donna & Bill Shepherd.

Court of Honor, Grown Protected:

'Ruffian', Elliott P. Brogdon.  
'Nuccio's Jewel', Elliott P. Brogdon.  
'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.  
'Dr. Clifford Parks', Joe Austin.  
'Campari', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman.  
'Mary Agnes Patin', Jack Teague.

Blooms Shown: 400

Show Chairman: Charles H. Heins

## MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

**Columbia, SC      October 22-23, 1983**

Grown in Open:

Best Bloom Over 5": 'Mathotiana', Maj. Gen. & Mrs. Harold R. Bauer.  
Runner-Up: 'Drama Girl', Mrs. H. C. Scott.  
Best Bloom Under 5": 'Harriet Bisbee', Mr. & Mrs. G. R. Dubus.  
Runner-Up: 'Snow Drift', Donna and Bill Shepherd.  
Best White: 'Allie Habel', Mr. & Mrs. G. R. Dubus.  
Sweepstakes: Parker E. Connor.  
Runner-Up: G. R. Dubus.

Grown Protected:

Best Bloom Over 5": 'Kickoff', Mr. & Mrs. Lew Fetterman.  
Runner-Up: 'Campari', Mr. & Mrs. Lew Fetterman.  
Best Bloom Under 5": 'Margaret Davis', C. T. Freeman.  
Runner-Up: 'Harriet Bisbee', Joe Austin.  
Best White: 'Nuccio's Gem', William C. Robertson.  
Sweepstakes: Joe Austin.  
Runner-Up: J. K. Blanchard.

Best Novice Bloom: 'Herme', L. G. Brubaker.

Best Reticulata: 'Elizabeth Astles', Joe Austin.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Charlean Var.', Mr. & Mrs. William C. Robertson.

Best Miniature: 'Mini Pink', Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.

Best Seedling: Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard.

Blooms Shown: 365

Show Chairman: Elliott Brogdon

## VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Norfolk, VA November 5, 1983

- Best Bloom in Show: Seedling #39, Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Best Large Bloom: 'Mary Agnes Patin', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Runner-Up: 'Funny Face Betty', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Best Medium Bloom: 'La Peppermint', B. E. Parker.  
Runner-Up: 'Debutante', Melvin C. Stallings.  
Best Small Bloom: 'Pink Perfection', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Runner-Up: 'Sweetheart', Grover C. Miller.  
Best Miniature: 'Fircone', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Runner-Up: 'Little Man Formal', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Best White Bloom: 'Emmett Barnes', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Runner-Up: 'Edelweiss', Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Best Seedling: #53, Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Runner-Up: #908, Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Habel.  
Best Hybrid Bloom: 'Garden Glory', Ira E. Hefner.  
Runner-Up: 'Gay Time', Ira E. Hefner.  
Best Sasanqua Bloom: 'Bettie Patricia', Melvin C. Stallings.  
Runner-Up: Seedling #5, Melvin C. Stallings.

## WEST CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Greenwood, SC October 29, 1983

- Best Bloom in Show: 'Kickoff', Elliott Brogdon.  
Best Japonica:  
Protected: 'Mary Agnes Patin', William C. Robertson.  
Grown in Open: 'Carter's Sunburst, Pink Var.', Mrs. H. C. Scott.  
Best Reticulata: 'Forty Niner', William C. Robertson.  
Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Anticipation', William C. Robertson.  
Best Sasanqua: 'Narumi-Gata', Mrs. R. W. Hart.  
Best Miniature: 'Fircone, Var.', Parker E. Connor, Jr.  
Best Seedling: Exhibited by Mrs. R. W. Hart.  
Best Collection of Three, Same Variety: C. T. Freeman.  
Best Collection of Five, Different Varieties: Mrs. H. C. Scott.  
Court of Honor, Grown in Open:  
'Governor Mouton', Mrs. H. C. Scott.  
'Joshua E. Youtz', Mrs. H. C. Scott.  
'Helen Bower, Var.', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
'Doncklaeri', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
Court of Honor, Protected:  
'Kickoff', William C. Robertson.  
'Carter's Sunburst', William C. Robertson.  
'Gus Menard', Elliott Brogdon.  
'Margaret Davis', Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
Sweepstakes, Protected: Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Timmerman.  
Runner-Up: William C. Robertson.  
Sweepstakes, Grown in Open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.  
Runner-Up: Mrs. H. C. Scott.

Blooms Shown: 222

Show Chairman: Nollie Robinson, Jr.

# CAMELLIAS IN MY GARDEN AND YOURS

Marion Edwards

Jacksonville, FL

One of the best early blooming japonicas suitable for growing unprotected in the Southeast is 'Early Woodville Red'. This is an early blooming sport of 'Woodville Red' and was registered by Hody Wilson in 1972. The plant and blooms are identical to the parent, however early blooms are deep pink and do not have the typical strawberry red color until the weather cools. My young plant has been blooming for three years, and the first bloom has always opened during the first week of October. The last bloom this year opened in time for the Jacksonville show on December 3rd and won a trophy for the best large ungitbbed japonica. this sport of 'Woodville Red' has also produced a sport. Several growers in this area have had blooms that were formal double and fimbriated. Dr. McFerrin of Gainesville, FL has plans to register this sport.

A good miniature for growing protected or unprotected is 'Dryade'. 'Dryade' is the oldest miniature listed in the Camellia Nomenclature book, having originated in Italy in 1849. My young plant of 'Dryade, Var' blooms in November and December, not treated. This year I had sixteen bloom buds. Seven blooms opened in November and nine blooms opened in December. The blooms last for a long time and I had eight blooms in excellent condition on my three foot tall plant on Christmas Eve. The

blooms are uniform in size with none exceeding the two and one half inch limit for miniatures. I entered one bloom in the Charleston show on November 6, three blooms in the Fort Valley show on November 12 and one bloom in the Jacksonville show on December 3.

Helpful hints for trophy hounds: Is polishing all that silver becoming too much of a chore? Try the following. Line the kitchen sink with aluminum foil. Pour in one cup of Spic and Span. Fill with warm water. Place the silver in the sink and let it soak for ten to fifteen minutes. Remove the silver, rinse with water and let air dry. This method usually removes all of the tarnish, however, stubborn spots may require silver polish. I have been warned not to use this treatment on black silver.



Betty Hotchkiss, Horticulturist at Masee Lane.

## BAD NEWS

At the ACS convention in Kennett Square, Frank Pursel showed slides of a budded chrysantha plant, one of three in his possession. Everyone was looking forward to seeing the blooms, or at least a slide of the blooms. We have received word that this plant died! Now, we will have to wait another year or longer before chrysantha blooms in the States.

## THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY MET, WOW!

The following photos will give you an indication of the fun and foolishness that goes on at a convention of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. These photos were taken last year by Marion Edwards and Bill Shepherd at the Friday evening masquerade party around the pool. The meetings of A.C.C.S. are held at Myrtle Beach, SC, around the first of October-October 5 this year.

The pool party was just one of the activities. There was a Carolina country ham brunch late Saturday morning. Don't be fooled into thinking that only country ham and the trimmings were served. Everything

you can think of in the way of a breakfast item was served! Noone needed to go out for lunch later on. then the banquet Saturday night was a typical pig picking. Even that was improved upon, as we didn't even have to pick the pig. Someone had already done it for us, and "going back for seconds" was encouraged.

In addition to the above, there were well stocked refreshment tables set up for the pool party, the brunch and the banquet, with refreshments to suit **everyone's** taste!

Next year will be a repeat of last year except the party Friday night will be a "shipwreck" party where everyone is to come dressed as he was when the ship hit the iceberg. Sounds like another wild one! Also, the banquet Saturday night will be a "Seafood Spectacular", in the words of president Annabelle Fetterman. I'm not sure what a "Seafood Spectacular" is, but I'm all for it. Annabelle doesn't do anything half way!

Now if you are not a member, you are invited to join. If you have never attended a camellia convention, here is a good place to start. Membership for a couple is only \$9.00 and for a single, \$6.00. Send your check to Latimer McClintock, 1325 E. Barden Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.



*Top: Jeanette Waltz disguised as a pumpkin. Bottom right: Tyler and Buck Mizzell disguised as - well, you name it. Bottom left: Frances Hicks and Mrs. L. C. Jaynes, two oriental beauties.*



*Top right: Lew, Jr. and Jonie Fay Fetterman, one ugly clown and one pretty one. Top left: You wouldn't believe me if I told you - how about Martha Hall? Bottom right: If A. B. Cooper and Bea Rogers meant to scare people, they succeeded. Bottom left: Gloria's smile gives her away, Latimer looks like something you'd like to give away.*

## IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy

Fayetteville, NC

I used to have a camellia friend who saved and reused potting soil. Whenever a plant would die or whenever he would replot a camellia, he would save the soil. There was always a large pile of used potting soil in front of his greenhouse. I believe that most plant pathologists would strongly urge you to discard potting soil after it has been used. They would also recommend that you disinfect containers before they are reused. I would go along with that advice one hundred percent. Despite the advent of Rid-O-Mil (Subdue), I am more afraid of root rot (I can't pronounce

its scientific name, much less spell it) than I am of any other camellia disease. Until recently, I have been scrubbing and rinsing used containers and soaking them in a Captan solution. I would use one tablespoon of Captan to a gallon of water. If you mix 30 gallons of solution, it would take a lot of Captan, and Captan is not cheap! Recently, after reading Dr. Baxter's article on the use of Clorox to disinfect scions prior to grafting, I have been using it to disinfect containers prior to reuse. Dr. Baxter agreed that my mix of one gallon of Clorox to 30 gallons of water would

do a good job disinfecting containers if they were allowed to remain in this solution for 10 to 15 minutes. He did suggest the use of a small amount of detergent to improve the "flow" of the solution.

I have scoffed at the idea of using a scion without leaves. I still would not do such a thing unless the circumstances were very unusual. This past grafting season, I had unusual success, despite the use of less than ideal grafting stock. I can report success with two leafless scions. One was a nice fresh healthy scion of 'Something Beautiful' which a friend gave me late in the season. It was a short scion with no eyes except the terminal bud. I trimmed it into a wedge but could not get the wedge shaped just right. I decided to cut it off and start over. I was using a single edge razor blade, and accidentally sliced off the only leaf. It was such a pretty green bud till I decided to graft it anyway, feeling that I had nothing much to lose. It took! I can show you an 8 or 9 inch plant of 'Something Beautiful'. The other one was a different story: it was a scion of an unregistered, large to very large, full peony, non-retic hybrid that came to me through the mail. It had lost all its leaves except the top most one. Though I hated to do so, I threw it away except for the terminal bud and leaf. I grafted it. In a day or two, that final leaf too fell off. This usually presages the failure of the graft. But I didn't disturb it and in due time, to my surprise and joy, it took and grew.

Some camellia growers are interested in the development of very early camellias. The reason is that petal blight has just about ruined many growers as far as exhibiting blooms in the spring shows. One prominent grower in the Charleston area told me that he would limit his exhibiting to the fall shows. This is too bad, but it is certainly under-

standable. There must be nothing more discouraging than to see your beautiful, award-winning-quality blooms develop ugly brown spots before you can get them to the show table. It would be even worse, I suppose, for the ugly brown spots to appear after you get the blooms to the show! Let's assemble a list of very early blooming camellias. We cannot depend on the nomenclature book because the adjective "early" is relative. Some growers might consider any camellia that blooms before the first of the year an early blooming variety. Others might want it to bloom in September or October in order to qualify for that rating. Let's assemble a list of camellia japonicas and hybrids that bloom along with the sasanquas. That ought to satisfy everyone as to their being "early". The following is a list of camellias that I know are early, either from personal experience, or from the experience of trusted friends or, as in the case of the last three, because they won "best-in-show" in November before the advent of gib. Here goes: 'Debutante', 'Daikagura', 'High Hat', 'September Morn', 'Marquis de Lafayette', 'Joshua Youtz', 'Early Woodville Red', 'Ari-Jishi', 'Kiku-Toji', 'Elizabeth Le Bey', 'Tinky Lee', and 'Il Cigno'. If you know of others and will let me know, I'll pass along the information.

The blooming season 1983-84 may become known as the year that the camellias didn't want to open. Though I gibbed in August as I was supposed to do, I have not been able to take blooms to a single fall show. I have had three blooms to open on my one large plant of 'Desire' and one bloom to open on 'Elizabeth Weaver', but that's all as of this date, December 30. Bill Anderson says that he has not had more than 5 or 6 blooms so far, although he gibbed in August and September. Son

Hackney says that he was able to take but a single bloom to one fall show that he attended. Clyde Copeland writes that he used enough gib to gib every camellia in the state of Mississippi, but for some reason they just refuse to open. Another correspondent writes, "If they don't start blooming soon I might as well forget this season!" What's going on! Is the gib we're using no good? If anyone has an explanation, I'd surely like to know.

At the meeting of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in Myrtle Beach in October 1983, Marion Edwards presented a slide program of camellias. This program was so well received until Marion was asked to prepare a slide program which could be used at meetings of camellia clubs. He has done so. This slide set consists of 40 slides, 30 taken at the Myrtle Beach meeting last year and 10 of

show winning camellias. It is available to any camellia club which would want to use it. Marion will be the custodian, and is the person to contact for use of this slide set. Contact Marion Edwards, 5603 Darlow Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32211.

Would you like to have your ACS yearbook bound with a hard cover? Here is the address of a bookbinder who does good work and the price is reasonable. The hardcover is forest green, has the ACS logo in gold on the front, about 2¼ inches in diameter, and has "The American Camellia Yearbook, 1983" on the edge. Mail your book to the following address with your check for \$10.00. This will pay for the binding and return mailing.

Mr. Ralph Elmore  
12 Orleans St.  
Greenwood, MS 38930



*This is a view inside one of the tremendous conservatories at Longwood Gardens, site of the fall 1983 ACS convention. Photo by Gregg Davis.*

# THE GREAT DRY

Robert Atkinson      Australia

Our Camellia season is drawing to a close in Melbourne. The sap is beginning to flow and the growth buds to elongate. It is interesting to reflect on what has been an extraordinary year. The hardness of Camellias in our climate has been proven beyond doubt.

Over much of Australia and particularly in the south eastern corner, where Melbourne is located we have experienced a prolonged and severe drought. Our problems first began prior to last years Camellia season, in fact in April 1982, when our monthly rainfall was well below average. This continued for 15 consecutive months until July this year when we had slightly above average rainfall. The 15 months of below average rainfall is the longest continuous period since meteorological records have been kept, making it the most severe drought in our history — The Great Dry.

A long drought has a psychological effect on all people. Conversation was constantly about the weather and we wondered if it would ever rain again. The effect on farming communities was devastating as exemplified by this quote from Time Magazine of March 28, 1983 — "Even the region's hardiest inhabitants find the eerie silence unnerving. Under the blazing sun, the quiet that grips vast stretches of eastern Australia is accentuated by the whine of the hot, blast-furnace-like winds that bear down on farmlands long since stripped of vegetation, whipping up the bone-dry topsoil into whirling clouds of reddish-brown dust. Here and there the superheated stillness is broken by the squawking of white cockatoos and black crows, wheel-

ing and circling overhead, searching the parched land for dead and dying animals below".

Nightly our television news showed us livestock being shot and buried in mass graves to save them further suffering. There was no pasture to support them. Paddocks were bare earth and dams were dry.

Melbourne's water storages fell to record low levels and we were faced with severe water restrictions. One of these restricted watering of gardens to 2 hours, 3 nights per week between 7 and 9 p.m., with a hand held hose only. We could use a bucket or watering can at other times. This made deep watering impossible and it was a matter of trying to keep plants alive. Many plants shed part of their foliage to try to compensate for the lack of moisture. Lawns were left to die.

Our ordeal, for this is what it was, climaxed in February. Searing heat with temperatures of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit was experienced on a number of days and rain was something we only dreamed of. Cracks appeared in the soil in which my lawn had once grown, opening up to a width of 1½".

On the afternoon of February 8th, the temperature rose to 109.4 degrees and the hot north wind was howling. I was sitting in my office when I noticed that the sun had gone in and the sky was getting very dark. Were we at last going to have a thunderstorm and some of that water that used to fall from the heavens? No such luck. The sky became darker and darker, the street lights came on and the wind grew even stronger. It soon became apparent that a dust storm was rolling in. A storm of a magnitude and ferocity that we, in Melbourne, hadn't experienced

before had whipped up 140 million kilograms of dust from the parched farmlands to our north west and dumped it on our city.

Australian countryside and bushland is prone to bush fires and we had been experiencing serious fires since November. February 16th, 1983 was designated on the Christian calendar as Ash Wednesday. It dawned hot and windy. As the day wore on the temperature rose once again into the 100's and in fact peaked at 110 degrees and the intensity of the wind grew to gale force. Mid afternoon I was making some calls related to my work to some nearby country towns when I noticed a wisp of smoke in the mountains to our north west. I hoped it was only a small fire but as the smoke quickly became billowing clouds I realized it was more serious. Reports were soon coming over the radio stations that there was not just one fire but numerous serious bushfires burning out of control all over the state of Victoria and in our neighboring state, South Australia. Both states had erupted in a holocaust of tragic bushfires that killed 78 people, destroyed many thousands of houses and devastated hundreds of square miles of bushland and farmland. Melbourne was shrouded in smoke, and ashes fell from the sky. Ash Wednesday 1983 — a day we will never forget.

Rain was still only something in our imagination but with the arrival of March and of our Autumn, or Fall as you know it, the weather began to cool down. The ritual of 2 hours hand watering 3 nights per week continued for many more weeks while the rainfall slowly returned to normal.

Now to consider the effects on our Camellias. The severity of the drought and summer, remarkably, only had a marginal effect.

The plants themselves stood up extremely well. Some yellowing of

leaves did occur and some leaf scorch also on more exposed plants. With the arrival of the rain the plants greened up very quickly. I did not lose one plant.

One of the first things we noticed was that some sasanquas either did not set flower buds or they shed them at a very immature stage. This occurred on a minority of plants only and was not confined to any particular cultivars but affected different ones in different gardens - no doubt related to the amount of exposure of the plant itself. The general size and substance of the sasanquas blooms was up to normal standards.

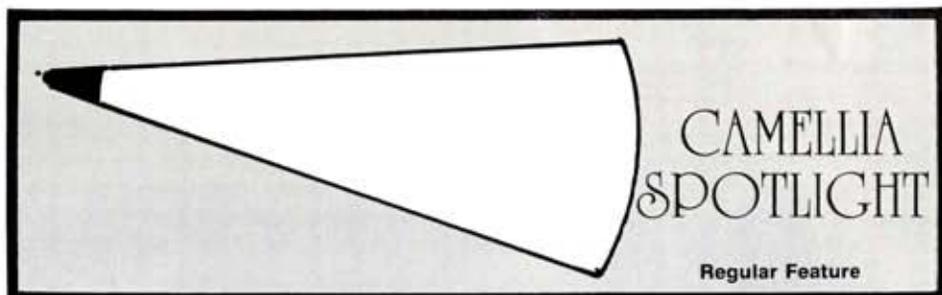
As the season progressed and the japonicas began to open up it was my experience that some in ground plants were producing blooms of smaller size than we have come to expect. Generally speaking the blooms on my container grown plants were up to size, no doubt because of being better able to control soil moisture throughout the long dry spring, summer and autumn. The arrival of substantial rains seemed to improve the later blooms on the plants which had been producing small ones.

Generally speaking, with a few exceptions, my *reticulata* blooms were of good size and appeared to have been only marginally affected by the extreme conditions.

The flowering time of many cultivars, particularly early in the season was delayed by 2-4 weeks but as the season progressed flowering time seemed to return to about normal.

Our main show in Melbourne, at Waverley, this year attracted record entries and the overall standard of blooms was as good, if not better, than we have witnessed before.

This says a great deal for our favorite flower.



What are some of the good new camellias? Well, there are quite a few that I have been alerted to watch for. Here are some that I would like to grow if I could get a scion or a plant. To begin with, I have been telling myself for months that the only camellias I wanted that I did not have were 'Pike's Peak' and 'Mary Kay'. Ray Gentry has scions of both of these for sale and perhaps plants. Both are retic formals. Ray will also have in the fall a pink semi-double retic hybrid named 'Annabelle Fetterman'. The description of this one appeals to me and I will get it too as soon as I can. It is said to have light colored veins in the petals instead of dark veins. 'Eleanor Waltz' is one which is not being propagated by anyone to my knowledge, but which certainly should be, if reports and slides of it do not lead us astray. It is a white formal of the swirl form. One who should know, tells me that all the blooms are swirl form. Dick P. Hardison of Tallahassee FL is propagating a large dark red formal named 'Dennis Vaughn' that seems to be a "must" for those who like formals, and I do. Another Florida introduction which should knock 'em dead in a year or two is Ed and June Atkins miniature formal called 'Something Beautiful' - pale pink edged burgundy red. Ray Gentry is the one to see for this one. Mark Cannon is propagating some of the new camellias from Australia. Of the ones he is listing,

I would recommend 'Coral Challice', a medium, coral colored, non-retic, formal with a very high rose-bud center. It was registered by Tom Savige. And of course 'Gypsy Rose, Var'. This is the one we have mentioned before as being a gorgeous, traffic-stopping, formal, registered by Edgar Sebire. It is white with bright red in the center and petal edges. Get it! Another on my list of recommended new camellias is Dr. Homeyer's 'Howard Dumas'. Again, I have not seen it, but the description is enough for me: "Very large, currant red, semi-double to peony". Actually, I doubt that you would go wrong by acquiring any japonica that Dr. Homeyer registers. He does not bother with "also rans". Just consider these: 'Gee Homeyer', 'Leah Homeyer', 'Fran Homeyer', 'Chie Tarumoto', 'Steve Blount', 'Cleve James', and 'Elizabeth Weaver'. Not a maverick in the corral! I believe that Central Georgia Nurseries of Macon GA is propagating this camellia.

This report is primarily concerned with camellias registered and/or propagated on the East Coast, but there is one West Coast cultivar that we should mention, and that is 'Harvey Short's Finale'. It is the last one of Harvey Short's camellias that will ever be registered as Harvey died in 1978. In about 25 years of working with camellias, he was able to register more than 100 very worthwhile varieties. Many of his camellias still

(and will always) appear on show tables all over the country. Just to name a few: 'Ballet Dancer', 'Extravaganza', 'Premier', and 'Masterpiece'. 'Harvey Short's Finale' is a large to very large, full peony, white. It's future looks bright. Plants are available only on the West Coast, but if you want a scion (and who wouldn't), send a tax deductible contribution of \$5.00 to San Diego Camellia Society, c/o E. C. Snooks, 6114 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, Ca 92037. It would be a wise move to

include about 50¢ for postage.

Now, the best was saved for last! Remember Carolina Camellias mentioned in the spring 1983 issue a seedling exhibited in the Greensboro show by Katie Kelly? Remember the writer's enthusiasm and excitement? Well, this seedling has now been registered as 'Katie Kelly'. It is not yet available, but watch for its release. If it doesn't turn you on, then you had better go back to raising roses, day lilies or petunias!

## The Greenhouse Grower Goes Outside

I have decided, after 20 some odd years as a "greenhouse" grower, to concentrate my efforts on growing camellias outside. This doesn't mean that I'm going to start raising tomatoes in my greenhouse or bantam chickens, or that I'm going to demolish it, or anything like that. It just means that I'm going to quit beating my wings against the inevitability of defeat at the show tables where protected camellias are concerned. I'm going to continue growing a few of the retic hybrids and many of the lovely formals in the greenhouse. I'll continue to show some protected blooms too. But my primary interest has shifted to outside camellias. I know that some camellia people believe that if one exhibits outside camellias, he should not exhibit protected blooms too. The reason being that it would be too easy to pass off a protected bloom as an outside grown bloom. I cannot conceive of anyone doing such a thing! That would completely kill the joy of exhibiting! But let me get back to my subject.

I thought that it might be interesting (even ridiculous) to see the list of cultivars that I have planted outside since last blooming season. Some are 3, 4 and 5 year old budded plants, some are 2 year old plants and some are last year's grafts. All of them are grafted plants. A few of them are formals, some are whites and some are the heavy peony types - cultivars that are not supposed to be best for outside. I have tried to stick to the semi-double and the loose peony types, the dark pinks and reds and japonicas and non-retic hybrids.

The area where the 85 to 90 camellias were planted is the lower half of my yard. Once, when I was younger and more foolish, I had centipede grass planted all the way down to the bottom of my lot. This make a beautiful back yard, but lawn mowing was a major undertaking. Several years ago, I planted a row of camellias spaced 6 feet apart across the back yard, thus dividing it into an upper lawn area and a lower more-or-less abandoned area. The lower

area is partially shaded by pines and tall oaks, and is the area where I have one of my seedling patches. It is also the area where my greenhouse camellias spend the summer. The

gardener would do it, but my interest was in getting as many camellias growing in the ground as possible. These are the newly planted camellias:

### **Japonicas:**

Alabama Tide	Goggy	Midnight, Var.
Alan Davis	Grace Albritton	Miss Charleston
Alta Gavin	Guilio Nuccio, Var.	Nuccio's Pearl
Ann Blair Brown	Guy Lennard	October Affair
Ballet Dancer	Helen Boehm	Professor Charles Sargent
Bea Rogers	Iwane	Rowena Hooks
Berenice Perfection	J. M. Haynie	Saudade de Martins Branco
Betty Sheffield, Blush	Jessie Burgess	Sawanda's Dream
Bob's Tinsie	Jutre	Scensation
Bonbon	Katie	Simeon
Bonbon Blush	Kiku-Toji	Spring Sonnett
Bright Buoy	King Lear	Tama No Ura
Chameleon	Lady Laura	Te Deum
Charles A. Newman	Look Again	Tiffany
China Doll	Magnoliiflora	Very Cherry
Commander Mulroy	Maroon And Gold	Vernon Mayo
Doncklaeri	Margaret Davis	Wendy
Durant's Dilemma	Marquis de Lafayette	White By The Gate
Eleanor Martin	Mayer Israel	Yuki-Botan
Faith	Melody Shepherd	Seshiari (Higo)

### **Non-Retic Hybrids:**

Anticipation	Fairy Boquet	Robbie
Black Knight	Gaytime	Rose Parade
Dr. Zhivago	Huntsman	Sun Song
El Dorado	Mona Jury	Sylvia May Wells
E. G. Waterhouse	Pink Cameo	Winter Gem

### **Seedlings:**

Bessie Boggs	Mini Pep	SAE Seedling
Double Blooming Japonica	Neal Lee	Tiffany x Saluenensis
Dr. Holmes	Purple Prof. Sargent	Waterloo x Debutante
Jocinda	Robert Holmes	W. W. Pearson
Kramer's Picotee		

### **Retics:**

Betty Ridley	Dali-Diechi	Francie L
Brian		

camellias were planted on 6 foot centers both ways, from the original line of camellias all the way down to the greenhouse. I'll quickly admit that it is not the way an English

The cultivar listed under retics as 'Dali-Diechi' probably is not that, but a japonica. That is the name under which I have been growing it for 2

years. It has not one *reticulata* trait. I hope to recognize it when it blooms. There are some very old varieties on this list such as 'Magnoliiflora', 'Iwane', and 'Doncklaeri'; some very new ones such as 'Mona Jury', 'Marquis de Lafayette', and 'Tama-No-Ura'; some of the best ones of all, 'Tiffany', 'E. G. Waterhouse', and 'Grace Albritton'; and probably some dogs. There are some early ones such as 'Kiku-Toji' and probably some late ones. One thing for sure, there is a little bit of everything in this planting.

While attending the ACS convention in Kennett Square, I told an acquaintance about my outside camellias. He told me that he

thought that I was planting them too close together. He said, "You ought to plant them at least 8 feet apart, and preferably 10 feet." Right out of the book! He went on, "In a few years you won't be able to walk between them."

"How many years?", I asked.

"He thought for a moment, "Oh, about 25 or 30."

The absurdity of this statement hit us both at the same time. We looked at each other and cracked up. He was talking to a 65 year old man. In 25 or 30 years I would not be able to walk between them no matter how far apart they were planted.

Carolina Camellias

### *TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS*

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, 1983, will long be remembered among camellia growers in the East! It was the sudden, awesome deep freeze that came close to wiping out all outside blooms for the entire growing season.

Nobody knows the extent of damage to the plants at this time, but there certainly was some. There will doubtless be many articles published in camellia journals, bulletins and newsletters in the months ahead describing the devastation and assessing the damage. Is it possible that any good could come from such a calamity! Yes, I think so. If nothing else, it will make us more aware of the camellias that can take the cold. There are **some**.

Beginning in 1955 and covering approximately 20 years, the late Mr. Wendell Levi of Sumter, SC, kept records and reported on cold hardiness of the camellias in his garden. He reported on about 400 varieties. He grouped his camellias into 3 classes according to cold hardiness. The most cold hardy he placed in Class 1.

In the 1964 ACS yearbook, his Class 1 included 64 varieties which he described as follows: "They bloom successfully regardless of how cold or when, down to 4 degrees. Their blooms are of normal quality. Their buds, tight or swollen, are usually unhurt. They bloom normally in our severest winters." Here are the 64 varieties in this group:

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Berenice Boddy	Capt. John Smith	Dorothy Ashley
Cherrio	Donation	Dr. W. G. Lee
Willie Hite	Donckelarii	Eleanor McDowell
Arthur Middleton	Feather's Seedling #101	Elizabeth Boardman
Dr. Tinsley	Finlandia	Firebrand Var.
J. J. Pringle Smith	Finlandia Var.	Glen 40

CONTINUED - INSIDE BACK COVER

# STRESS IS BEAUTIFUL

Thomas Lee Carmichael, CA

One winter day, as I passed my good-for-nothing orange tree that had only produced a dozen oranges in 6 years, I remembered an article about talking to plants. Well sir, I talked to that tree, told it what a bum it was, taking all my food and water and giving nothing in return. I told that tree to shape up or I would cut it down. I showed it I meant business by cutting off a good sized limb. Do you know, that tree must have been scared to death, because I got a crop of over 100 super large oranges that season.

Later in my gardening career, I started growing orchids. These fascinating plants generally require a period of dryness after blooming in order to start new roots and a new limb. I am like most gardeners, I can't stand to see something dry out, even a little. As a result of my loving care, the orchid roots rotted and I lost some plants. One interesting aspect of orchid roots is the fact that they are often above the potting medium and big enough to be easily visible. When they are dry, the roots are white. As water is applied, it is as if they have a layer of sponge around them to soak up the water. When wet, they turn green. I soon learned that if I stressed them by withholding water, the roots would grow out looking for water. Now, by balancing the need for stress against the need for food, I'm having much better luck with them. Here again, stress worked to my plants' advantage.

I guess we all have stress. The boss says, "Produce or I'll get someone who will." The wife says, "Honey, do this and do that." So it is that plants have their moments of stress. Maybe it's too hot so the plant strains to pump out more

moisture through the stomata on the leaves to provide more air conditioning. Or maybe it gets frozen back to the ground and has to put on more top growth to survive. Our problem is to manage stress so that our camellias produce their best.

I was fortunate enough to have breakfast in the garden of one of Fresno's top camellia growers, Mr. Jack Woo. Jack prunes his camellias so skinny that if they were compared to Twiggy, you'd think Twiggy were

Kate Smith. Then he takes off more buds than I have enough nerve to do. If that isn't stress, it will have to do!

But I can hear you saying, "That isn't stress. It's forcing growth in a desired direction." You are right, but consider this. The function of a plant is to reproduce itself. It dressed itself up with all those pretty little dollies called blooms. It wants desperately to mate with some compatible pollen and start a new family. Now if you cut off limbs and remove blooms, the chances of a satisfactory love life for the plant are diminished. So what does she do but put on her best dress in the form of a bigger flower. Marvelous what stirring up those hormones does.

What are other examples of stress to plants? Well, grape growers have been known to girdle their vines with a wire. This strangulation panics the plant into producing more grapes to insure survival of the species. The wind will force plants to produce stouter trunks and better roots just as exercise creates muscles and callouses on us. We really stress a plant when we cut off a limb or a scion. The internal hormones then take over to try to make roots on the scion. And the original, if pruned severely, will send out new growth to

replace the lost leaves and buds.

Of course, some stresses are not helpful to your camellias, such as dieback fungus, or some nasty bug sucking out the life juices of your prized 'Miss Charleston'. But now you can see from what I've told you about orchids, why the experts recommend that you let your camellias, especially those in pots, dry out until the top inch is dry to the touch. There are two benefits. One, the roots will go deeper and two, the chances of

water mold rotting your roots is decreased. Those plants in the ground probably should not be allowed to go quite that far, and a mulch will allow you to dry the top roots without severe sudden drying.

Let's not forget to prune and to remove buds. We want to keep the plants in a sexy show of gorgeous blooms. There is one final stress you can apply. It's birth control and it's applied by removing seed pods.

## **MAGNOLIA GARDENS CAMELLIA SHOW**

**Sara B. Clark**

**Charleston, SC**

Come back through the veils of Time with me to an exquisite Low-country Plantation and gardens where the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society hosted the first annual show November 6, 1983.

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens dates from 1678 and it offers absolutely every inducement to want to "live in the romantic southern past", if only for a few hours.

We approach the plantation house down a long, gently curving, rutted roadway and just as the house comes into view we are greeted by ducks, geese, chickens, guinea fowl, and peacocks. They all dash toward us in personal greeting. Nearby swans float indifferently, arrogant in their natural grace. All of this scene is staged with a background of a forest of beauty: live oaks, maples, large aged camellia bushes and flowers and shrubs of every sort including a horticulture maze, a Biblical Garden, and a herb garden.

Surely this must be a little piece of Eden, torn loose and left here for all to relish throughout time. Also, Noah must have deposited some of the animals from the ARK here and forgot them; for there is a petting zoo

with the famous Magnolia mini horse ranch, and sheep, and goats, cattle and a pig or two.

Our show exhibitors displayed about four hundred of the most heavenly blooms that skilled artisans can grow. One table contained fifty blooms from camellia varieties that live in the gardens at Magnolia Plantation. These are quite old plants and some have matured to the "tree" category. So, you see, with the proper tender, loving care any scrawny, little camellia bush has promise.

This, too, can be said for any scrawny, little, buck-toothed girl, for a Miss Magnolia Gardens Beauty Contest was offered in conjunction with our camellia show. The contestants were all young, lithe and lovely, of course, and were adorned with camellia corsages. The trouble with beauty contests, for young ladies as well as for camellia blooms, all contestants cannot win first place! Eventually, judges made their decisions and some won, others lost; but everybody seemed to feel a sense of achievement and nobody left that sublime environment in tears.

Magnolia Gardens and Plantation is one spot in this great world that

is unique and one should make a point to drop down there at whatever opportunity presents itself. The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society garlanded the plantation's natural charms with an extraordinary show.

It would be interesting to learn, if

possible, that people held camellia shows and Miss Magnolia Gardens beauty contests in that same place in 1678! Can it be that the show November 6, 1983 really was a FIRST?!

## PROMISE OF SPRING IN THE JANUARY GREENHOUSE

Zenobia Kendig

Lutherville, MD

Early blooms in the Camellia Greenhouse are especially exciting. They are as new as spring itself, even though they are only the harbinger of that delicate season.

This year, **'E. G. Waterhouse'**, a perfect peach-pink formal double has opened two blooms, more elegant than any others, perfectly imbricated, suggesting velvet and pearls as their proper companions.

**'Rose Parade'**, a hybrid with high centered rose-form blooms of lovely true rose color, not at all strawberry, has borne three flowers so far, looking as if they were fragrant with tea-rose perfume.

A huge peony form **'Tomorrow's Dawn'** of bright pink with some scattered stamens has a strawberry red petal as an accent just as the dawn is supposed to have.

**'Debutante'**, blooming profusely up high on an espaliered plant, draws attention up to the tall plants sweeping the glass above. Some partly opened buds of **'Valentine Day'**, also a huge rose-form flower, are beginning to unfold. This plant took a rest from blooming last year but has many buds this year. This seems to be somewhat characteristic of reticulatas - one year they grow new branches and the next they set many buds.

We follow the late Dr. Ling's suggestions in January to add a teaspoon of dolomite to each

container. The logic in this is that acidity can build up in time and to counteract this a small amount of dolomite may help. He also included a tablespoon of Electra. Instead of this we apply Osmocote 18-6-12 in November and give ¼ strength 20-20-20 in January or February.

We are looking forward to **Reticulata** blooms usually occurring in February or March. So far, **'China Lady'** with large semi-double blooms of pink silk, is always early but blooms over a long period of time. The foliage is long and narrow and beautifully quilted. It needs disbudding as it has a tendency to form buds in clusters.

**'Descanso Mist'** is a large loose peony form with petals that appear to be painted with the oil color Rose-madder and some iridescent shades of pink. It is tall and rangy as some reticulatas tend to be. **'Terrell Weaver'** and **'Miss Tulare'**, both beautiful reds and **'Francie L'** and **'Lila Naff'**, rose pink and silvery pink respectively, have huge buds showing promise. A large pink reticulata **'Curtain Call'** with huge leaves and **'Coronation'**, an outstanding white Japonica, have been growing by leaps and bounds the last two years and now look as if they will have the large flowers described in the catalog.

Some others which are still a challenge as they seem to take more

time to grow before setting buds are **'Willow-Wand'** and **'White Retic'**. Willow-Wand has small narrow leaves which are still different than *Sasanqua* foliage. Larger than *Sasanqua* most of it is variegated all over with light green.

Most of the *Sasanquas* bloom so late that they cannot be left out doors after the middle of December. This year two **'Chansonette'** plants were lovely outdoors in ornamental jars until about Dec. 10. **'Sparkling Burgundy'** and **'Yuletide'** were taken in in November and **'Cleopatra'**, outside in the ground, is covered with micro-foam but did not set buds as it is recovering from the cold in 1981.

Since we spray in November with Cygon mixed with Benlate it takes a while for the odor of Cygon to fade. By January it is no longer noticeable. We mist foliage early in November and December but not after blooms begin to open. Of course we run circulating fans continuously. The temperature is set for 42 degrees but in the daytime it rises so we

manually operate side windows when the weather allows. On mild days in fall, if the windows are not closed until dusk, the Carolina Wrens and sometimes the Cardinals like to sleep among the *Camellias* or in baskets of ferns high overhead. They wait patiently the next morning for the windows to be opened, chirping lightly to let you know they are there and they will come back at evening if the windows are not closed.

The gardener almost always has a special, exciting secret seed, bud or plant that is developing, to be watched, petted, fed and cared for with TLC. In the case of the *Camellia* grower it may be the seedlings blooming at last. In our greenhouse seedlings of 1974, 75 and 76 are about to bloom and show what they are made of. These are principally from the U.S. Arboretum and those gathered by Dr. Arthur Maryott in his garden during the years before the 1977 cold blasts. The gardener has eternal hope. We wish you the same!

## DRAINLESS POTS

E. C. (Gene) Snooks      La Jolla, CA

The need for excellent drainage in *camellia* culture is, without a doubt, one of the most important cultural needs. The *camellia* literature places great emphasis upon this point as it should. Nowhere is this more important than with container culture.

Especially is this true when we must use water with a high mineral content. Yet, there are times and circumstances under which it is difficult, undesirable or nearly impossible to use such well draining containers, either for practical or esthetic reasons. How often have you wanted to have a *camellia* or

some other specimen plant in a prominent position **and** a beautiful pot? Alas, you tell yourself that it can not be, for the container you want has no drain holes or the surface underneath will be ruined by the drainage. Your worries are over, for now you can have your cake and eat it too!

The plan shown here takes a bit of time to set up and does, indeed require a bit more attention than a "normal" planting would, but aren't the rewards worth the effort?

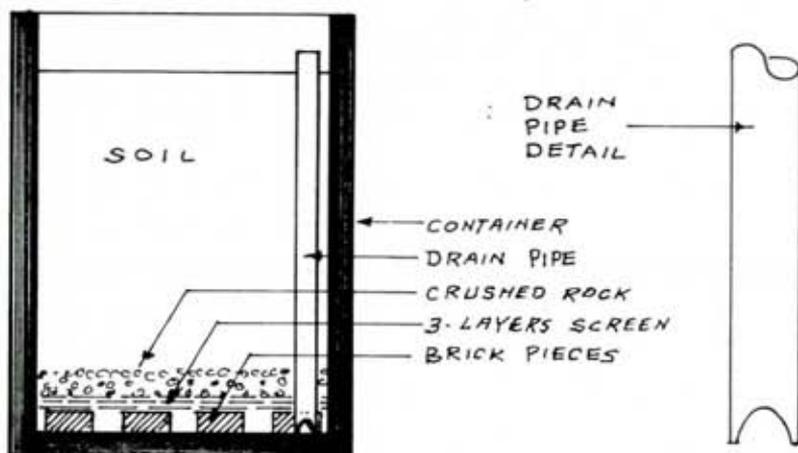
The container chosen for this planting technique should be somewhat larger than ordinarily used

for the size plant being considered. Especially, it should be deeper for part of the depth will be taken up with the improvised drainage system.

In the bottom of the container, place partial or whole bricks in a pattern which will cover about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of

couple of notches in the end which will rest on the bottom of the pot and insert it near one side of the pot, cutting holes in the screens as needed.

Next, place a thin layer of pea gravel or crushed rock over the



the pot bottom, evenly spaced. The surface must be as level as possible. Next, cut two pieces of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch galvanized hardware cloth to fit the inside of the container. This is obtainable at any hardware or building supply store. On top of this double layer, place a piece of plastic household screen, cut to fit. never use copper or bronze screen for this layer.

After the layers of screen have been fitted, cut a length of plastic sprinkler pipe ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch or  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch) sufficient to project about one inch above the final soil line when resting on the bottom of the pot. Cut a

couple of notches in the end which will rest on the bottom of the pot and insert it near one side of the pot, cutting holes in the screens as needed.

Next, place a thin layer of pea gravel or crushed rock over the pot bottom, evenly spaced. The surface must be as level as possible. To remove excess water from the bottom of the pot, fit a short length of hose to a common turkey baster. These are available in the housewares department (not from the kitchen). Insert the hose down the drain pipe and suck the excess water out. Check again in about an hour for further drainage. To keep soil and other foreign matter from falling into the pipe and clogging it, place a cork or other plug in the top.

Now you have a drainless pot with perfect drainage.

### CANCELLATION

We have received word that the Virginia Camellia Society show, scheduled for March 31 - April 1 in Norfolk, has been cancelled. One member of VCS says, "I have been growing camellias for 35 years, and I have never seen anything like this!" The temperature in the Norfolk area dropped to 2 degrees, I have heard, with a wind chill factor of -15 degrees! This, just one week after a balmy 60 degrees. No wonder there are no camellias to show!

TWAS THE NIGHT (cont. from page 23)

Princess Lavender	Flame Var.	Gov. Mouton
Shin-Shioko	Frances McLanahan	Imura
T. K. Variegated	H. A. Downing	Iza Houser
Christine Lee	H. A. Downing Var.	Kumasaka
Flame S.	Ida Weisner	Lady Charlotte Var.
Lady Vansittart	Iwane	Mary Seibels
Lady Vansittart Red	King Lear	Max Goodley
Leucantha	Latifolia	Monjisu Red
Magnoliaeflora	Marie Griffin	Mrs. Walter Allan
Margaret Ratcliffe	Mihata	Mrs. Walter Allan Var.
Queen Bessie	Monte Carlo	Paulette Goddard
Tricolor (Siebold)	Monticello	Pink Champagne
Winifred Womack	Yours Truly	Ville de Nantes
Blush Hibiscus	Anna Lee	Ville de Nantes Red
Brilliant Star	Comte De Nesselrode	White Queen
Brooklynia		

Of these 64 varieties, I have 10 of them in my yard. Just by walking among my camellias, and opening a bud now and then, I was about convinced that I would not have one single bloom to exhibit during the

entire season or even to bring in the house. But I checked carefully these 10 which were on Mr. Levi's list and found that 9 of the 10 varieties have at least some undamaged buds! Here are the 10:

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Dr. Tinsley	Magnoliaeflora	Donckelarii
T. K. Variegated	Glen 40	Kumasaka
Flame S.	Gov. Mouton	Ville de Nantes
Lady Van Sittart		

Kumasaka is the one variety that I am still convinced does not have a single bud on it that will open a bloom, not even a cold damaged, runt of a bloom! And this is an 8 foot plant that performed most satisfac-

torily year in and year out. Watch for a more comprehensive assessment of the damage to camellias, both blooms and plants, in following issues of Carolina Camellias.

Carolina Camellias

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