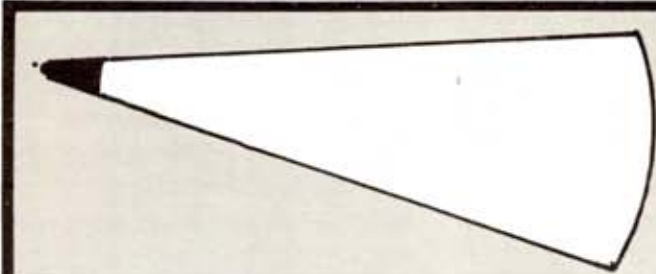


# Carolina Camellias AND *Atlantic Coast Camellias*





## CAMELLIA SPOTLIGHT

REGULAR FEATURE

The blooms exhibited at the show held at Massee Lane in November call for a few comments. Those who were there saw a few flowers that would tempt anyone to get out his little black book and take down some names. For example, there was a bloom of 'Miss Rebecca' that would make your mouth water, but even the exhibitor, Hulyn Smith, admits that it probably was a "freak flower." This variety ought to be in every collection though, "freak flower" or not. If it will produce a bloom once in a blue moon like that one exhibited at Massee Lane, it gets my OK!

Did you see the bloom of the pink *granthamiana* at Massee Lane? It was exhibited by Jim Grant of Santa Rosa, California. I will admit that this particular bloom would not turn a single head, because it was wilted. But I did not know that there was such a thing. Jim let me lift up the petals to get a better idea of what it would look like fresh. I can imagine that it was a very lovely flower when cut, much prettier than the white *granthamiana*, which leaves me unimpressed.

Still on the subject of Massee Lane: there was a little flower open on a bush growing in the garden which fairly called you over to look closer. I don't think that either Brownie or Betty would encourage any visitor to leave the garden paths to get a closer look, but I couldn't resist the

temptation! It surely was a pretty flower and if it were a typical bloom, would be worth adding to any camellia collection. But it obviously was not. It was 'Lee Baby,' one of Dr. Mealing's introductions. It was a formal with incurved petals, whereas 'Lee Baby' is supposed to be a rose form double.

Frank Pursel is well known for his magnificent retic-hybrids. He may become just as well known for his non-retic hybrids also. One of his camellias was registered in 1983 and named 'Col. R.D. Hicks.' It was described as a medium, red, anemone form cross of 'Salab' and 'Kramer's Supreme.' We have plenty of medium, red, anemone camellias and the description in itself would not cause anyone to rush out and buy a plant. But if you saw the flower, you might just do that! I recently saw it in the greenhouse of one of our top growers. It was gibbed I will admit, but what a flower! It was too large to be called medium and looked to me more like a full peony than an anemone form. But the color was superb. The bloom was good enough to stand out in a greenhouse full of extremely big and beautiful retics!

Most of the retic hybrids come to us from the West Coast. But every now and then, one of these East Coast pollen dabblers will come out

Continued on Page 22



# Carolina Camellias

AND

## Atlantic Coast Camellias

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## Editor's Page



Ever now and then I read something, or hear something to the effect that judges are not always impartial. That they allow humanism to enter the judging picture. That they sometimes deliberately, intentionally, willfully, vindictively pass over the best bloom to vote for one which is obviously not the best bloom. I am not a judge and do not know all that goes on during the camellia show judging process, but I doubt that this is true, on the Atlantic Coast, anyway. I have seen too many shows and have been hypnotized by too many gorgeous blooms on head tables to believe that better blooms were deliberately left behind. Mistakes, yes. Unwise decisions, yes. Mean, petty, settling of scores, **NO!**

In the excitement, confusion, and attempts to keep head above water, a show chairman and/or a chairman of judges may have a momentary lapse of memory. He may forget what the rules say. He may not remember the origin of a camellia. He may even forget the name of his youngest child. So go easy on him.

Just this season, a mutant of a registered variety was awarded best

seedling at a show. There was no malice there. There just wasn't a division for mutants. Though the rules for ACS cooperative shows specify that there will be a separate division for mutants or sports, this rule just cannot be complied with. There are too few unregistered and unnamed mutants entered in shows for this to be practical. A better idea would be to exhibit the mutant along with its mother variety, and mark it "mutant" or "sport." This is what usually happens. But don't throw mutants in with seedlings. This wouldn't be fair to the seedlings.

Another judges' decision this season which might bear questioning is the choice of 'Mathotiana' as best bloom originated at Magnolia Gardens. I don't believe that 'Mathotiana' originated at Magnolia Gardens, but came to Magnolia Gardens from Europe over 100 years ago. I'll bet that there was a 'Debutante,' 'Mrs. Charles Cobb,' 'Mrs. Freeman Weiss,' 'Rev. John Bennett' or 'Duchess of Sutherland' exhibited at that show which could have been given that award with no arguments from anybody.

# *Humiliated In China*

**Boyd McRee**

**Conroe, Texas**

As I sauntered forth in 1984 to China with the International Camellia Society, carrying my six gorgeous hybrid camellia plants as gifts to that country, I was secure in the knowledge that I represented the greatest and most powerful nation in the world of which, of course, Texas is the cream.

Right off the bat, I was somewhat disturbed when they told us that our plants would have to be sterilized because they could not risk getting infected by die-back and petal blight, diseases common to less developed nations.

Then we held our first conference in Kunming, where we listened for an hour on the history and glories of China, but they did appreciate some return for providing the camellia to the rest of the world. Of course, camellias was just one of hundreds of other things they had provided for the less fortunate. These included silk and gunpowder.

Later, they let us see their camellias which turned out to be big oversized reticulatas having scrawny foliage. Of course they had the yellow one that everybody else in the world is trying to develop, but I never cared for yellow and the little two inch flower was lopsided.

It got worse. They pointed out their 2000 year old pagodas. I held back on telling them about the San Jacinto Monument that was twice as high. But I did tell them about the Rio Grande. They showed me the Yangtze. I was about to lay it on them about the Alamo and how those Texans

withstood the hordes of Mexicans for a week. They showed me the Great Wall. At Zian, they showed us a grave having 6000 full sized replicas of soldiers and horses buried standing, with no two soldiers looking or dressed alike.

Well, so much for history. I might as well get on with NASA and our Super Bowls. Those little Chinese men (average weight 130 pounds and 5 feet, 5 inches tall) were packing loads of rock up a hill carried on a pole with a basket on each end. A group of 8 came by and I tapped one on the shoulder and indicated to him that I would rest him by taking it up the hill for him. He set his load down and the others stopped to watch - with those silly grins. I am a normal Texan, 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing 240 pounds.

I heaved and grunted and strained, but could not get the load on my shoulders. They helped get it up, but after three steps, down it came. They just clapped and laughed, with those silly grins on their faces turning into the widest display of ivory I saw in the whole of China.

It was then that I remembered taking a single monstrous flower to a show, only to see a 'Mansize' win. It was then that I remembered that "pride goeth before downfall." It was then that I was able to quote: "Wherefore let him that standeth take heed lest he fall."

It was after I got back to Texas that I noticed that my hat was two sizes smaller.





# Message

*from Our President*

Dear Members and friends:

The camellia season is in full swing and what a wonderful season it has been. The early shows were outstanding, with more quality blooms than most viewers have seen in many years. The outside blooms may be few in number for the remainder of the season since the low temperature of recent weeks has destroyed all open flowers and buds showing color. Even tight buds reportedly have been hurt. But, camellia growers don't give up, they just keep growing fine plants and exhibiting beautiful blooms when the season is favorable. They are a persistent bunch, thank Goodness!

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society is indeed fortunate to have such an outstanding bulletin. Too often we put too much of a load on our editor. He needs help, and it is up to us, the camellia growers, to give him all the assistance we can. Some of us agreed to write an article for the bulletin when we met at Myrtle Beach last fall. Please don't forget. Make our editor's job a little easier by sharing some of your experiences with all of us. Write an article and send it in today. After all, none of us has all the answers to growing camellias, but collectively, we have enough of the answers to produce head table camellias in abundance.

I may be a little early in announcing our next ACCS meeting, but I urge **all** our members to reserve and mark May 4th on your calendars for a spring get-together. The Mid-Carolina Camellia Society has invited all ACCS members to join them at the annual B-B-Q at the State-Record Recreation Center, 7 miles south of Columbia on Highway 321. Hours will be from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Good food, fellowship and an opportunity to purchase some of the latest camellia introductions will be the order of the day! South Carolina's answer to Cheech and Chong may conduct the plant auction. Make your plans now to be with us.

Elliott Brogdon, President, ACCS

## ABOUT THE COVER DRAWING

Scene in Masee Lane, Headquarters of American Camellia Society near Fort Valley, Georgia. This beautiful garden was donated to ACS by Mr. Dave Strother along with 137 acres of productive farm land in 1965. Mr. Strother also donated \$25,000.00 toward maintenance of the garden. This is probably the most famous camellia garden in the world.

# ***Fraterna, A Seed Parent? Yes, Indeed!***

**James H. McCoy**

**Fayetteville, NC**

A careful examination of the 1984 nomenclature book reveals that there are only nine hybrid camellias with *fraterna* blood. Only one, 'Esme Spence,' has *fraterna* as the seed parent, and only two have a *fraterna* hybrid ('Tiny Princess') as seed parent. This amazes me for two reasons! First, it suggests that *fraterna* sets seed reluctantly, but my experience indicates that it sets seed readily. Second, there are no hybrids of *fraterna* x *luchuensis* or the reverse. It would seem that the hybridizers would have gone wild over this cross, one slightly fragrant and the other highly fragrant, in an attempt to increase fragrance even more.

Several years ago, I dabbled blooms on one side of my *fraterna* plant with pollen from *luchuensis*, and blooms on the other side with pollen from Pursell's X-11, a retic hybrid. I gathered a handful of seed from one side, I thought it was from the X-11 side. Almost all of these seed germinated, but only two survived my culture to blooming size. Last year, one of these bloomed. It turned out to be an insignificant bloom, about two inches in diameter with five petals. The color was apple blossom pink, but it was highly fragrant. It had only one bloom last year, but the fragrance was as strong as, or stronger than, *luchuensis*. It would stop you in your tracks as you passed! I concluded after experiencing this bloom, that I must have got the sides of my *fraterna* plant reversed. Such a fragrant bloom could not have come from *fraterna* x Pursell's X-11. It must have had *luch* as pollen parent. This year the same

plant bloomed again, three blooms. Again the fragrance amazed me. The other plant still has not bloomed, but it appears to be of the same parentage as the one which bloomed. Same dull green leaves, same growth habit, same everything.

The next year after germinating these seed, I dabbled pollen again on *fraterna*. I didn't keep any records of the pollen donor, but I again gathered a handful of seed. Since I didn't know the pollen parents, I lost interest in even sprouting them. I picked the seed capsules off and threw them over the back fence. Then came the fragrant bloom! I regretted my hasty action.

Last year, I again pollinated blooms on *fraterna* with pollen from *luchuensis* and gathered 12 seed capsules, each capsule containing one seed. I sprouted all 12 of them, but only 11 produced a plumule. I have grafted these 11 on finger size stock in an attempt to see the blooms quicker.

This year, every bloom on *fraterna* will get pollinated. It is difficult for me to keep the pollen parents straight if I just pollenate the individual blooms, so I pollenate all blooms on a branch with pollen from the same donor. I tag the branch rather than the bloom itself.

This bloom that I write about has no claim to any attention except for its fragrance. Like *fraterna*, it does not hold long on the plant. Like *fraterna*, the leaves are not attractive. Like *fraterna*, it is a miniature. It does not even seem to have *fraterna*'s floriferousness. But it does have what I fail to find in any other camellia

Continued on Page 20



# JUDGING SEEDLINGS

Marvin Jernigan,

Warner Robins, GA

The seedling camellia is the most misunderstood and mis-judged of any flower. I have heard good camellia show judges state that we will have to choose this one because it is the freshest. The A.C.S. scale of points for judging seedlings does not even list freshness as a point to consider. The scale is as follows:

Texture and substance	20
Form	10
Color and Marking	10
Distinctiveness & Unusual Qualities	50
Foliage	10

This scale should always be referred to when judging seedlings.

The following are quotes from the ACS "Rules Pertaining to Seedling Awards."

Section 15: "Condition should count for very little or be ignored."

Section 16: "Prime consideration shall be a marked improvement or a new development in color, form, style, fragrance or other desirable unique qualities."

Section 17: "A provisional commended seedling certificate may be awarded when a seedling is likely to make some new and valuable addition to the genus camellia."

The judging scale for seedlings cannot be the same as it is for named varieties.

A seedling is defined as being a flower of a plant grown from a seed and has not been offered for sale or sold either by the originator or by others, and must not have been shown in a class eligible for an outstanding bloom award or where a blue ribbon is counted toward a sweepstakes award. A seedling bloom that has been shown for a period of

five years is not eligible to be shown as a seedling again.

The following is from "RULES FOR EXHIBITING SEEDLING AND MUTANTS IN ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS" (ACS yearbook 1978):

Section 1 - Seedling and Mutant Classes:

(a) Seedling and Mutant exhibits should be segregated into any of the following separate classes:

1. Japonicas
2. Reticulatas and Hybrids with Reticulata parentage
3. Hybrids without Reticulata parentage
4. All other Species (Sasanquas, Hiemalis, Vernalis, etc.)

(b) Any of the foregoing classes may be combined or subdivided in any logical manner if such combinations or subdivisions are clearly stated in the show schedule. For example, the schedule may list the seedling classes as follows:

Class 1 Japonica - Not chemically treated.

Class 2 Japonica - Chemically treated.

Class 3 Reticulatas and Hybrids - Treated or untreated.

Class 4 All other Species - Treated or untreated.

(c) Any or all of the seedling classes listed above in Item "a" may be separated into size groupings if clearly stated in the show schedule.

Section 2 - Requirements for Seedling and Mutant Entries:

(a) Every Seedling or Mutant entry must state whether the bloom has been grown protected or unprotected and whether or not it has been chemically treated. Otherwise, entries



are subject to disqualification.

(b) For the information of judges, entry cards for Seedlings and Mutants may call attention to unusual qualities.

(c) Amateurs and professionals alike must be allowed to exhibit Seedlings and Mutants.

(d) More than one specimen of the same Seedling or Mutant should be exhibited whenever possible. When more than one specimen of that same Seedling or Mutant is entered, all specimens should be entered under a single entry card.

(e) Seedling or Mutant entries shall not be considered for either Outstanding Bloom Awards or Sweepstakes Awards.

(f) Official Seedling entry cards are available from ACS Headquarters. Mutants are entered on regular entry cards."

A mutant should never be entered in a seedling class or judged against a seedling.

Seedlings should be located in such a place that they get as much natural light as possible, and be out of the way of the judges when they are judging the balance of the show. Seedlings should be judged by all the A.C.S. qualified judges at the show.

In my opinion, every judge in the show should look at the seedling class as an individual, and if he sees something he thinks is good or worthy of consideration, request that it be put to a vote to determine whether or not to give it a certificate. The only exception to this procedure would be the judge who has entered a seedling bloom. He should not cast a vote.

Judges should always look at the A.C.S. entry card for seedlings. The uniqueness of the seedling may be indicated thereon. For example, if the card indicates a cross between a

reticulata and a japonica and the size is miniature, this would be a unique seedling no matter what the bloom looked like. It could very well be the genetic base that we need to breed a class of miniature reticulatas. This is something that should be considered when voting for a seedling certificate. I do not mean that it should automatically get a certificate, but it should be one factor for consideration, and have something to do with the bloom being given an award or not. Every factor should be given some weight in the judging.

I have seen show placement committees put any bloom it could not identify in the seedling class. This should never happen. A bloom should meet all qualifications for a seedling as set out by A.C.S. rules, or it should be put in some other class.

A few years ago, I put a bloom of 'Bill Johnson' in a show as seedling No. 155. This bloom was removed from the show at breakdown and grafted. The man did not get a take and he lost his understock along with the scion. Any time I show a good seedling, it would not do anyone any good to graft it, for it would not take. In most cases the understock would die along with the scion. This is not true with most scions and the show committee should make sure that the security is sufficient to prevent scions of seedlings from being taken for grafting purposes. If a hybridizer has a good seedling and word gets out to the growers, it might lose much of its commercial value to the originator.

It takes 75% of the A.C.S. judges to award a seedling certificate of merit to a bloom. I personally would like to see this changed to 100%. To get a unanimous vote, the bloom would really have to be outstanding. I would like to see a requirement that a

seedling could not be shown if it were gibbed.

When you gib a seedling, you do not know what you've got. We know that gib will make the bloom larger and earlier. So we do not know what size it really is or when its natural blooming time is. I personally would like to see written ballots for seedlings use the A.C.S. scale of points where every judge would have to give it a point score. This would be extremely valuable to a serious hybridizer. He would know what the judges are looking for. He would better know how to change his breeding program.

Novice judges are prohibited from judging seedlings for the awarding of provisional or commended seedling certificates.

I have heard the Chief Judge state at the start of judging that in his opinion, there is no seedling bloom worthy of being voted on for a certificate. This is not a decision for the Chief Judge or even a team of judges to make. According to A.C.S. Rules, any certified A.C.S. Judge can award a blue ribbon to one or more seedlings and ask that it be voted on for a certificate.

## ***On Flattening and Flattering Your Camellias***

**Irving B. Anderson**

**Sacramento, CA**

The achievement of floral excellence for personal satisfaction, plus the chances for exhibit awards is the "name of the game" for camellia growers. In our quest for "show stoppers," we may tend to overlook the attributes of the plant as a whole. A thing of beauty the year around, with gorgeous blooms in season as a bonus, what more could one ask for as a permanent specimen in his garden?

Ok, so we do have some camellias in the ground and wish we had room for more. This is a common plight in the average city garden. There is a way to utilize space we don't realize we have. It is called the espalier.

Grown in its natural bush form, the camellia is truly three dimensional: width, depth and height. With the espalier, you change this, in effect, to just breadth and height, with the means of increasing the size, if you wish, of each dimension.

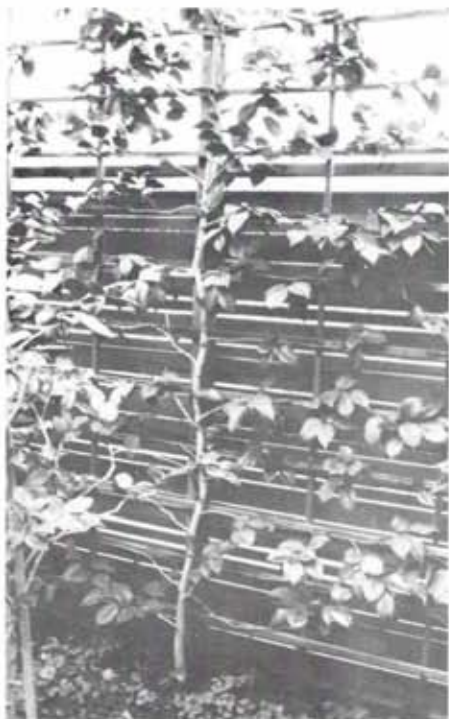
Most lots must have areas where a bush form would be impractical but

would be suitable for an espalier. For example, the space between the house and driveway. Usually, this space is too narrow for a natural form plant. Here, a wall space six by eight feet or more wide, by the same in height, would be an excellent site for a trellis. Another area that can be utilized is along a fence. A stunning effect may be had by constructing a trellis along the entire length and spacing the espaliers eight or more feet apart. Unless shaded by trees or buildings, it is advisable to provide a shelter with lath or shade cloth. In this case your espalier could be extended to the roof of the shelter. In a situation where the fence constitutes one side of the lath house, your espalier would provide an attractive background for your tubbed plants.

Construction of your trellis need not be difficult. The writer uses  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick redwood (other woods would be suitable), ripped 1" wide. As to spacing, a pleasing proportion is about 8" high by 12" wide. ("shoji"



effect). These dimensions seem harmonious to average size leaves. For smaller leaved camellias, such as sasanquas or hybrids, smaller spacing might be desirable. It is best to mark your strips, both vertical and horizontal, where they are to intersect, before nailing. Paint or leave natural, as desired.



*'Tiffany' - Illustrating use along a fence under lath house.*

Assuming that a wall espalier is sheltered against full sun, it may be positioned as little as four inches from the wall. Painting the wall between the trellis openings may present a problem but it can be done. If necessary, the plant can be untied and the trellis unfastened temporarily.

The technique of training a plant on a trellis is not, nor could ever be an exact science. You just have to contend with variables in nature and do the best you can. Unless you

happen to have a good sized plant which seems amenable to training, it is better to start with a single stem, two or three foot specimen. Carefully select branches on opposite sides of the stem that will come as closely as possible to the horizontal strips of your trellis, eliminating the others. Since the camellia is alternate



*'Lois Shinault' - Wall espalier in ground since 1972. A large plant well suited for espalier.*

branching, one side will be lower or higher than the one opposite, necessitating bending the branch for tying. For tying, use only  $\frac{1}{2}$ " green plastic tape which is non-girdling.

Very little pruning needs to be done the first year. From then on, preferably after blooming, select laterals that are most suitable, eliminating the rest.

As to cultivars to use, ideally the ones having pliant and spreading growth would be the most adaptable.

Among the japonicas, those having good sized and lustrous leaves produce a favorable visual effect. Here are a few:

Easter Morn  
Elegans complex  
Gigantea  
Grand Slam (Especially good)  
Guilo Nuccio  
Tiffany  
Tomorrow complex  
Wildfire

In the reticulata and hybrid category there are also many having the above mentioned qualities, such as:

Crimson Robe  
Francie L  
Harold Paige  
Lasca Beauty  
Massee Lane  
Royalty (Especially good)

Most sasanqua and heimalis cultivars would be excellent choices for espalier use. But because of their rapid, rangy growth they are perhaps better suited for an informal espalier. Bonanza and Showa-No-Sakae would be good. Yuletide should make a brilliant smaller espalier.

Once established, the practice of pruning, following the bloom cycle, is especially important in the case of the espaliered camellia. At this time, new growth should be tied to the trellis. After new growth, a second thinning out of surplus laterals and some further tying will likely be necessary. As a consequence of the stringent pruning required in developing and maintaining an espalier, we will be



*'Fashionata' - in lath house since 1974.*

rewarded with a thriftier plant and larger blooms!

Like bonsai and topiary, the espalier is another form of plant training. Unlike the first two, the espalier flattens and expands in a two-dimensional pattern. An espalier can transform a once neglected spot into a distinctive feature in your garden, attractive and interesting at all seasons. Why not try it?

(Portions of article on same subject appearing in 1973 ACS yearbook used in the above with permission of ACS)

## COMMENT WORTH PONDERING

More and more I am coming to the conclusion that camellias should be regarded not nearly so much for flowers only, but as complete plants.

John Lesnie, Auckland, NZ



# SHOW REPORTS

## AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Fort Valley, GA

November 10-11, 1984

Best Bloom in Show: 'Dr. Clifford Parks, Var', E. Hulyn Smith

Best Japonicas Grown in Open:

Large: 'Tiffany', Anne & Bob Gramling

Medium: 'Betty Sheffield Blush', G. Stuart Watson

Small: 'Wilamina', Jim Grant

Best Japonica Grown Protected:

Large: 'Melinda Hackett', E. Hulyn Smith

Medium: 'Betty's Beauty', Dr. Dan Nathan

Small: 'Buddy Var', W.F. Mann

Best Reticulata: 'Hulyn Smith', E. Hulyn Smith

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Gay Time', Dr. Daniel E. Nathan

Best Sasanqua Bloom: 'Yuletide', Frank Jamison

Best White: 'Chow's Han-ling Snow', Frank Jamison

Best Miniature: 'Man Size', G.F. Abendroth

Best Seedling: #2039, Frank Pursel

Best 'Ville de Nantes': Anne & Bob Gramling

Sweepstakes: Anne & Bob Gramling

Runner-up: Frank Jamison

Blooms Shown: 674

Show Chairman: Marvin Jernigan

## COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Charleston, SC

November 17-18, 1984

Grown in Open:

Best Bloom: 'Tomorrow, Var', Mrs. A.B. Rhodes

Runner-up: 'Carter's Sunburst', Mrs. A.B. Rhodes

Best Retic or Retic Hybrid: 'Dr. Clifford Parks', Parker E. Connor

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Charlean, Var', M. Holland

Best 'Miss Charleston', Rupert E. Drews

Sweepstakes: Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Runner-up: Tom Adams

Court of Honor:

'Ville de Nantes', Albert V. Ewan

'Woodville Red, Var', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

'Helen Bower', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

'Tomorrow Park Hill', Mrs. A.B. Rhodes

'Brooksie's Rosea Superba', Rupert E. Drews

'Betty Sheffield, Var.', R.F. Stubenrauch

Runner-up Court of Honor:

'Vulcan', Donna & Bill Shepherd

'Clark Hubbs, Var', Donna & Bill Shepherd

'Magic City', Donna & Bill Shepherd

'Show Time', Donna & Bill Shepherd

'Granada', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

'Anticipation', Tom Adams

Grown Protected:

Best Bloom: 'Swan Lake', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn

Runner-up: 'Carter's Sunburst Pink, Var', Mr. & Mrs. William C. Robertson

Best Retic or Retic Hybrid: 'Arch of Triumph', Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Robertson

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

Best 'Miss Charleston', Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw

Sweepstakes: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague

Runner-up: Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Court of Honor:

'Ruffian', Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Robertson

'Valentine Day', Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Robertson

'Helen Bower', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell

'Tiffany', Elliott P. Brogdon

'Anticipation', Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague

'Ville de Nantes', Albert V. Ewan

Runner-up Court of Honor:

'Elsie Jury, Var', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell

'Carter's Sunburst', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell

'KiKu-Toji', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

'Mrs R.L. Wheeler', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

'Elegans Splendor', Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw

'Charlie Bettes', M.S. McKinnon

Best Seedling: Donna & Bill Shepherd

Best Novice Bloom: 'Pink Perfection', J.W. Walker

Blooms Shown: 551

Show Chairman: Geary Serpas

## COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Second Annual Show at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens

November 4, 1984

Grown in Open:

Best Bloom: 'Tiffany Var', Donna & Bill Shepherd

Runner-up: 'Ville de Nantes', Mrs. H.C. Scott

Best 'Miss Charleston', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard

Best White: 'Chow's Han Ling', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Sweepstakes: Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Runner-up: Mrs. H.C. Scott

Court of Honor:

'Betty Sheffield', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

'Rosea Superba', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

'Tiffany', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

'Donckelarii', Mrs. H.C. Scott

'Carter's Sunburst Pink', Mrs. H.C. Scott

'Mathotiana Supreme', Mrs. H.C. Scott

Runner-up Court of Honor:

'Mark Alan', V.A. Boudoff

'Moonlight Bay', M.S. Edwards

'Roman Soldier', Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

'Woodville Red', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

'Betty Sheffield, Silver', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Grown Protected:

Best Bloom: 'Charlie Bettes', M.S. McKinnon

Runner-up: 'Mathotiana Rubra', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Best 'Miss Charleston', Geary Serpas

Best White: 'Ruffian', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn

Sweepstakes: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague

Runner-up: Annabelle & Lew Fetterman



Court of Honor:

'William Jackson', Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague  
'Lila Naff', M.S. McKinnon  
'Mrs. Charles Cobb Var', Mr. & Mrs. S.G. Holtzclaw  
'Valentine Day', Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Robertson  
'Tomorrow's Dawn', Mrs. J.C. Bickley  
'Ville de Nantes', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn

Runner-up Court of Honor:

'Carter's Sunburst', M.S. McKinnon  
'Tiffany', Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Rish  
'Debbie', Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Robertson  
'Elsie Jury Var', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell  
'Oscar Elmer', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn  
'Katie Var', Elliott Brogdon

Best Retic or Retic Hybrid: 'Jean Pursel', Joe Austin

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Mona Jury', Joe Austin

Best Seedling: Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Best Novice Bloom: 'Mathotiana', Mrs. Helen McDaniel

Best Bloom Grown in Open, originated in Magnolia Gardens: 'Mathotiana', Mrs. H.C. Scott

Blooms Shown: 795

Show Chairman: Geary Serpas

## MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Columbia, SC

October 27-28, 1984

Grown in Open:

Best Bloom Over 5": 'Helen Bower, Var', Parker E. Connor

Runner-up: 'Elegans, Supreme', Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus

Best Bloom Under 5": 'Magic City', Donna & Bill Shepherd

Runner-up: 'Betty Sheffield, Supreme', Ruth & Marvin Jernigan

Best White: 'Mary Alice Cox', Parker E. Connor

Sweepstakes: Parker E. Connor

Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus

Grown Protected:

Best Bloom Over 5": 'Mathotiana Rubra', M.S. McKinnon

Runner-up: 'Ville de Nantes', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn

Best Bloom Under 5": 'Campari', Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Runner-up: 'Alyne Brothers', M.S. McKinnon

Best White: 'Gus Menard', M.S. McKinnon

Sweepstakes: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague

Runner-up: Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Best Retic or Retic Hybrid: 'Hulyn Smith', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Gay Time', Mr. & Mrs. S.H. Hackney

Best Miniature: 'Man Size', G.M. Serpas

Best Seedling: 'Lady Eva Sport', Ruth & Marvin Jernigan

Best Novice Bloom: 'Duchess of Sutherland', Bill Purcell

Court of Honor:

'Pink Explorer', Parker E. Connor

'Mona Jury', Elliott Brogdon

'Full House', Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus

'Helen Christian', Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus

'Donckelarii', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard

'Emma Gaeta', Joe Austin

'Aspasia McArthur', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn

'Margaret Davis', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn

'Show Time', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell

'Easter Morn', G.M. Serpas

'Helen Bower', M.S. McKinnon

Blooms Shown: 714

Show Chairman: Elliott Brogdon

## WEST CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Greenwood, SC

October 26-27, 1984

Best Bloom in Show: 'Tiffany', Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman  
Best Japonica Protected: 'Doris Ellis', Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw  
Best Japonica Grown in Open: 'Tomorrow, Var', Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman  
Best Reticulata: 'Valentine Day', Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Robertson  
Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Debbie', Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman  
Best Sasanqua: 'Narumi-Gata', Mr. R.O. Marbert  
Best Miniature: 'Hopkin's Pink', Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Hendrix  
Best Sasanqua Spray: 'Showa-no-Sakae', Mrs. R.W. Hart  
Best Collection of Three, Same Variety: Mr. C.T. Freeman  
Best Collection of Five, Different Varieties: Mrs. H.C. Scott

Court of Honor, Grown in Open:

'Sue Ann Mouton', Mrs. H.C. Scott  
'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mrs. H.C. Scott  
'Lady Kay', Mrs. H.C. Scott  
'Sunset Oaks', Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

Court of Honor, Grown Protected:

'Lady Kay', Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Robertson  
'Mathotiana Supreme', Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw  
'Elegans Supreme', Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw  
'Valentine Day, Var', Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Robertson

Best Novice Bloom: 'Amabel Lansdell', Dr. William C. Roche

Runner-up: 'Louise Hairston', Mr. Gilbert McClain

Sweepstakes, Grown in Open: Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

Runner-up: Mrs. H.C. Scott

Sweepstakes, Grown Protected: Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Robertson

Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw

Blooms Show: 388

Show Chairman: Bill Gardner

## THE GUS GERBING CAMELLIA GARDEN

The Men's Garden Club of Fernandina Beach, Florida, with the co-operation of the Eighth Street branch of the Florida National Bank and with the G.G. Gerbing family, has started development of the Gus Gerbing Memorial Camellia Garden. The garden will be located in a wooded area at the rear of the bank and will be open to the public.

Gus, a lifelong resident of Fernandina Beach, caught the "Camellia Fever" early in life, and started growing camellias for sale in 1923. He sold the Gerbing Camellia

Nursery to Ralph May in 1948. He was a charter member of the American Camellia Society and a long time active member of the Men's Garden Club of Fernandina Beach. Several of the cultivars placed in the new garden are some of the last grafts made by Gus in March, 1983.

Due to losses caused by the '83 freeze, only a small beginning could be made with sixteen cultivars planted. Additions by local garden clubs and Gus Gerbing's many friends will one day make the new garden a show place.



# *I Fall For Mouseandra*

**James H. McCoy**

**Fayetteville, NC**

It had been 3 years since Angie and I had visited Puerto Rico. As we expected, there were many changes. In a drive through some of the nice residential areas, we saw several flowering plants and bushes that we had never seen before. There was one which covered itself with shiny, red, heart-shaped leaves which hung down like Christmas tree ornaments. There was another which looked like what we used to call "Canario," but it was light purple, not yellow. But the one that attracted me most was one which grew up to 6 feet tall, and perhaps taller, and at every branch terminal was a mass of large shrimp colored leaves or flowers. The reason I don't know whether they were leaves or flowers is that they did not have any stamens as you would expect a flower to have, but they did not resemble leaves either. Someone told me that the name of the plant was "Mouseandra." I felt that I just had to have that plant! After all, I did have a greenhouse. I could carry it through the winter, surely.

My friends told me that last year and the year before, everybody was buying Mouseandra. But this year, nobody was buying it. They were buying purple canario. I didn't want purple canario, I wanted Mouseandra. They also told me that they doubted that I would be able to find it in any nursery or garden center. It was definitely *passe'*.

I began a search for it anyway. But before I did, I called the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture office to find out what the requirements were on bringing plant material into the States from Puerto Rico. They told me that I would have

to wash all soil off the roots and have the plant inspected at the airport before boarding the plane. I asked about substituting peat for soil. The answer was "No." They wanted to see the bare roots, and besides, some people couldn't tell the difference between peat and soil. They surely had a point there. They did suggest that I wrap the roots in moist newspaper and then clear plastic. I couldn't see the advantage of clear plastic over any other kind, if the roots were going to be wrapped in wet newspaper. But I didn't belabor the point.

Then we started visiting garden centers, looking for Mouseandra. Nowhere in the metropolitan area of San Juan could we find it. We even checked a very large nursery in Cayey, about 45 minutes from San Juan. No Mouseandra.

As the days passed and I couldn't find my plant, I really began to fear that I'd have to go home without it. But one day, we passed a small garden center that we had not yet visited. I thought I saw a splash of salmon color in the back. I wasn't sure, but we went back to check and sure enough, they had a score or more of beautiful Mouseandra plants, just the right size - about 30 inches above the soil in the container. The price was only \$9.95. Without much haggling, he came down to \$9.00 and I walked away with Moussie.

When we got ready to leave, I took the plant out of the container and washed every speck of soil off the roots. I then wrapped the roots in newspaper and submerged them in water. After the paper became

thoroughly soaked, I placed the soggy mass in a clear plastic bag and tied it well. I used bow knots so the roots could be quickly uncovered for the inspectors at the airport.

When we reached the inspection station, the inspector asked, "What's that?"

"A plant."

"What kind of plant?"

"Mouseandra, I think."

"O.K.," he said, and waved me on through.

He didn't even look at the roots! And I was afraid that I might have missed a few grains of soil!

We were told to put all hand carried packages and luggage in the compartments overhead or under the seats. Moussie wouldn't fit in either of these two places. So I laid her down on the floor between the seats in the center section, as it was almost empty of passengers.

Everything started out well. I felt good about picking a flight with a lot of empty seats. Then down the aisle comes a little boy about 3 or 4 years old. He decided that he would rather be on the other side of the plane and picked the space between seats where Moussie was lying to make the change over, right on top of Moussie! I came up out of my seat like I'd sat on

a tack! But it was too late. The damage had already been done. I picked Moussie up and brought her over and stood her up between Angie and me. This was very bothersome, so, since there was an empty seat behind me, I asked the lady seated in the other seat if she would mind my setting my plant there. She agreed. So Moussie rode the rest of the way in a seat of her own, a window seat at that.

By the time we got to Atlanta, Moussie looked a little "peaked". After the 3 hour layover, she looked **pathetic**. When we got to Charlotte, she looked like something you would expect to find in the Dempster Dumpster behind the florist's shop! But I unwrapped her roots and submerged them in water. By the next morning, she looked a lot better. But after the 3 hour trip to Fayetteville, she really looked pitiful! I planted her as soon as I got home in good "camellia soil." She never recovered. I guess she figured there was no use to, I'd just jerk her out of the water or soil and pack her off on another trip.

Though I have just a few apparently dead stems, I am going to care for them through the winter just in case some of the roots are alive and it will put out new growth in the spring. Forever the optimist!

## HARD COVER FOR YOUR YEARBOOK?

Would any ACS member like to have his yearbook bound in a hard cover? You can have it done for \$10.00, and this includes return postage. The binding will be forest green in color. It will have the ACS logo in gold color on the front, about 2¼ inches in diameter, and will have "THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA YEARBOOK, 1984" on the edge, also in gold colored lettering. Just mail your yearbook, along with your check for \$10.00 to the following address:

Mr. Ralph Elmore

P.O. Box 8161

Greenwood, MS 38930

**STUDIES ON SELECTING CAMELLIA SCIONS  
FOR GRAFTING ONTO CAMELLIA SASANQUA  
TO CONTROL ROOT ROT CAUSED BY PHYTOPHTHORA CINNAMOMI**

**Luther W. Baxter, Jr., Susan G. Fagan, and Peggy A. Mitchell**

**Camellia japonica** plants are susceptible to infection by **Phytophthora cinnamomi**, the fungus responsible for camellia root rot. **C. sasanqua** plants are resistant to root rot. By grafting **C. japonica** scions onto **C. sasanqua** stock, root rot is controlled in **C. japonica** plants. In spite of the fact that these grafts have been used for several (or many) years, little information on the details of the techniques of grafting is available.

It is important to know which camellia scions and root-stocks can be grafted successfully to control this disease when the pathogen (the fungus, **Phytophthora cinnamomi**) is in the soil. **P. cinnamomi** is not present in all areas, depending mostly on whether or not it has been introduced into the soil. This work reports the degree of success for grafting **C. japonica** scions onto **C. sasanqua** stock.

A. The first part covers two experiments: (1) Comparison of "terminal scions" versus "lateral scions" (Fig. 1), and (2) comparison of scions from outside-grown plants and from greenhouse-grown plants. The **C. japonica** cultivar used for the scions in both of these studies was 'Reverend John G. Drayton.' Twenty-five scions were used for each treatment in both experiments, 25 "terminal scions" and 25 "lateral scions" in

Experiment 1, and 25 scions from plants growing outside, and 25 scions from plants growing in a greenhouse in Experiment 2. Current year's wood was used in all cases and all scions were pruned to two leaves each. Scions were soaked at least 30 minutes in a benomyl suspension (1 tablespoonful per 2 gallons of tap water). The grafting was done 21 December 1983 onto 2-year-old **C. sasanqua** seedlings in a greenhouse maintained at a minimum temperature of 21 C (70 F).

The results were recorded on 6 June 1984. Two plants, one from the "lateral-scion" grafted plants, and one from the "terminal-scion" grafted plants, were missing. With the outside "lateral-scions," 21 of 24 succeeded; outside "terminal-scions" 18 of 24 succeeded; outside "terminal-scions" 23 of 25 succeeded; inside "terminal-scions" 25 of 25 succeeded.

From these data we concluded (1) that "terminal scions" and "lateral scions" (outside plants) graft equally well on **C. sasanqua** stock, and (2) that scions of **C. japonica** 'Rev. John G. Drayton' from outside-grown plants graft well as scions of this cultivar taken from greenhouse-grown plants.

An interesting point is that, with lateral scions, the number two bud (in axil of leaf number 2, next to stock), in many cases, grew out (Fig. 2) before the bud in the axil of leaf number one. Also, if a leaf fell

<sup>1</sup>Contribution No. 2363 of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station.

<sup>2</sup>Professor, Ag Science Asst., and Ag Science Assoc., respectively, Plant Pathology and Physiology Department, Clemson University, Clemson, SC.



off (leaving only one on the scion) both buds grew out satisfactorily (Fig. 3).

Grafts that grew showed no obvious differences in growth. That is, buds from "lateral scions" developed into plants that were as vigorous as plants that developed from "terminal scions."

- B. The second part of this study involved two experiments: 1) grafting various cultivars of **C. japonica** and 2) grafting various cultivars of **Camellia** hybrids other than those hybrids with **C. reticulata** parentage onto **C. sasanqua** stock. The results are presented in Tables 1 and 2. One hundred seventy-two grafts were made onto **C. sasanqua** stock, 86 "terminal scions" and 86 "lateral scions." Of the "terminal scions" grafted, involving 12 **C. japonica** cultivars (3 each), 33 of 36 (91.6%) grafted successfully; of the "terminal scions" involving 10 **Camellia** hybrid cultivars (5 each), 38 of 50 (76%) were successful; of the two combined studies with "terminal scions" (Tables 1 and 2), 71 of 86 (82.55%) grafts succeeded. Twelve **C. japonica** cultivars (3 grafts each) were also involved with "lateral scions" (Fig. 1) being

grafted onto **C. sasanqua**; 27 of 36 (75.0%) were successful. Fifty "lateral scions" of 10 **Camellia** hybrids were grafted onto **C. sasanqua**; 36 of 50 (72.0%) were successful; combined, 63 of 86 (73.2%) were successful.

In these three studies involving "terminal scions" and "lateral scions," 89 of 110 (80.9%) "terminal scions" grafted successfully; 84 of 110 (76.3%) "lateral scions" grafted successfully.

Again, as in experiments 1 and 2, several cultivars grafted well, such as Jeffrey Hood, Kick Off, Lulu Belle, Silver Triumph and Sunset Glory of the **C. japonica** cultivars, and Freedom Bell, South Seas, and Wilber Foss of the **Camellia** hybrids.

There is slight evidence that "terminal scions" graft better than "lateral scions." At the time of grafting, the importance of the level of maturity of the lateral buds was not fully appreciated; and no effort was made to select mature buds. It is possible that if one selects scions with lateral buds that are as mature as terminal buds, there will be no difference in the grafting success with the two types.

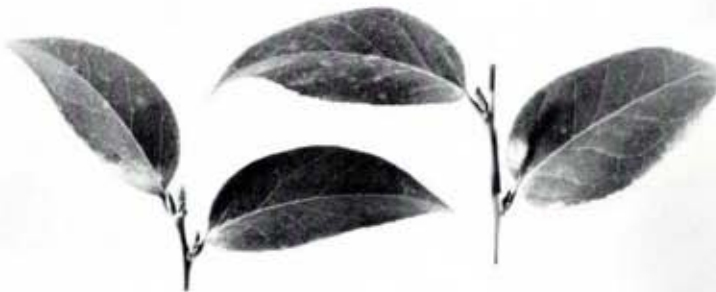


Figure 1. Left: Terminal scion of **Camellia japonica** with two leaves. (Note three mature vegetative buds.) Right: Lateral scion of **C. japonica** with two leaves. (Note one mature vegetative bud in the axis of each leaf.)



Fig. 2A. **Camellia japonica** graft on **C. sasanqua** stock resulting from using a terminal scion. Note the very strong stem from the bud of the second leaf. (See left side of Fig. 1)



Fig. 2B. **Camellia japonica** graft on **C. sasanqua** stock resulting from using a lateral scion. Note the very strong stem from the bud of the second leaf. (See right side of Fig. 1.)

Table 1. A comparison of the grafting success of terminal and lateral scions of **Camellia japonica** cultivars when grafted onto **C. sasanqua** stock. Grafted 26 January 1984 with scions from Nuccio's of Altadena, California. Presoaked 30 minutes in benomyl before grafting.

Cultivar	Terminal Scions	Lateral Scions
Clarise Carlton, var.	1/3*	2/3
Emmett Barnes	2/3	0/3
Jeffrey Hood	3/3	3/3
Katie	3/3	1/3
Kick Off	3/3	3/3
Lulu Belle	3/3	3/3
Pink Pagoda	2/3	3/3
Show Time	3/3	2/3
Silver Triumph	3/3	3/3
Silver Waves	3/3	2/3
Sunset Glory	3/3	3/3
Tom Knudsen	3/3	2/3
TOTAL	32/36 (88.8%)	27/36 (75.0%)

\*Numerator indicates successful grafts; denominator indicates number of grafts attempted.

Table 2. A comparison of the grafting success of terminal and lateral scions of **Camellia** hybrid cultivars\* when grafted onto **C. sasanqua** stock. Grafted 26 January 1984 with scions from Nuccio's of Altadena, California. Presoaked 30 minutes in benomyl before grafting.

Cultivar	Terminal Scions	Lateral Scions
Elegant Beauty	3/5**	2/5
Elsie Jury	2/5	2/5
Flirtation	5/5	4/5
Freedom Bell	5/5	5/5
Garden Glory	3/5	3/5
Rose Parade	3/5	3/5
South Seas	5/5	5/5
Tiptoe	4/5	3/5
Tulip Time	3/5	4/5
Wilber Foss	5/5	5/5
TOTAL	38/50 (76%)	36/50 (72%)

\*Camellia saluenensis crossed with C. japonica, or C. japonica crossed with (C. saluenensis x C. japonica).

\*\*Numerator indicates successful grafts; demoninator indicates number of grafts attempted.

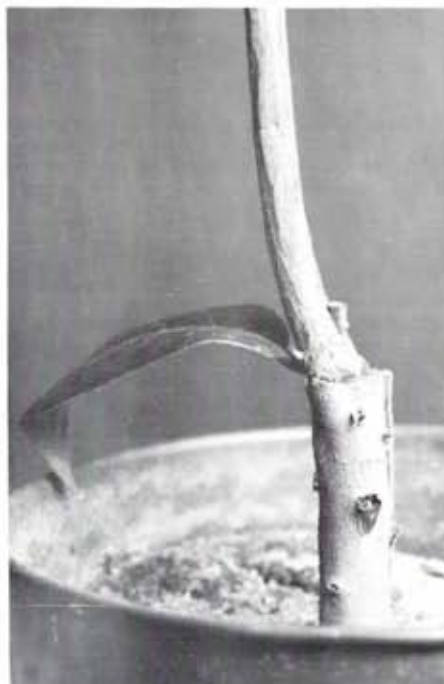


Figure 3. **Camellia japonica** graft on **C. sasanqua** stock. Note the strong stem arising from the bud of the second leaf (top leaf dropped off and the remaining stem was cut off.)

## HELPFUL HINT

Aphids and red spiders can be pests in the greenhouse after it is closed for the winter. Solve the problem with no-pest strips. They are good for about 5 months. It takes 2 no-pest strips for 500 s.f., 4 for 1,000 s.f. This really works!

Elliott Brogdon, Columbia, SC

## FRATERNA (From Page 5)

except Luchuensis, and that's fragrance. The camellias which are supposed to be fragrant are **not** fragrant to me. Maybe I smoked for too many years and damaged my sense of smell, but even those famous "fragrant" cultivars that win "most fragrant" awards in shows, those that have "fragrant," "sweet," or "scented" in their name, leave me cold! Leave me unconvinced! Leave me wondering if some people don't have a pretty active imagination!



## A SALUTE TO

# The Oldies

Regular Feature

### John Davy

Pensacola, FL

According to the 1981 A.C.S. Yearbook, thirty-seven years ago in South Georgia, a camellia enthusiast observed a "little seedling plant with a white bloom with red stripes." This enthusiast grew it as an unusual flower and recognized it as one with fine potential.

Today, there are twenty registered camellias which have this seedling's lineage. All have the original's semi-double to loose peony form, with wavy and upright petals. All have the original's medium to large size classification. All have the original's outstanding substance and tendency to hold on the bush for a long time. All make excellent specimen yard plants because they have the original's open, upright growth characteristics and large, dark green, glossy foliage. They all set a profusion of somewhat cold-hardy bloom buds. All are potential camellia show winners.

The name of this camellia enthusiast was Betty Sheffield. So is the name of my favorite "Old Time" camellia - and my favorite camellia family.

Betty Sheffield (1949)

B/S Blush (1958)

Lucky Seven

B/S Dream

B/S Supreme (1960)

B/S Pinkheart (1962)

B/S Coral (1964)

B/S Chiffon (1965)

B/S White (1980)

Adrianne's B/S (1982)

B/S Pink (1957)

B/S Variegated (1958)

B/S Dawn

B/S Silver (1960)

Funny Face Betty (1961)

B/S Blush Supreme (1962)

Blond Betty (1964)

Betty's Beauty (1975)

Betty's Pink Organdie (1980)

Betty by George (1982)



*Some of our Georgia members. Buddy Cawthon, Nell and Stewart Watson at Myrtle Beach last year.*

## SPOTLIGHT (From Inside Front Cover)

with one that will knock your eyes out! Just consider 'Lilette Witman.' I heard a grower say recently, while observing a retic bloom, "Any time you can take a 'Lilette Witman' as good as that one to a show, you'll win. The judges can't resist that sheen. It shakes 'em up." Look at 'Charles R. Butler.' I know that Charlie's friends looked for a long time for a camellia good enough to name for him, and I wondered if they really had settled on a good one. I don't wonder any more! I saw my first bloom of 'Charles R. Butler' this year and if you don't think it's good, you better go back to growing day lilies! Of course, there have been many more superb retic hybrids developed in the East, but let me alert you to one which is going to be registered, and presumably available, before too long. It will be named 'Ernest Aycock,' after the late Smithfield, NC camellia man. This camellia was developed by Joe Austin of Four Oaks, NC. It is a controlled cross of 'Mildred Pitkin' x 'Lasca Beauty.' The color is a shade of dark pink similar if not the same as 'Mildred Pitkin.' The bloom I saw measured about 7 inches in diameter and had a slew of rabbit ears sticking up all around the center. Joe said that he was sure that it would go to 8 inches or better, because he really had not made any attempt yet to "blow it up." Angie nearly had convulsions when he tore that flower up to count the petals. It had 20.

Those who are not members of the Australian Camellia Research Society nor the New Zealand Camellia

Society would include at least 90% of our readers. Perhaps some of you would like to know what's new "Down Under." Let's look at New Zealand first: It seems that 25 cultivars were "offered for registration" during 1984. This group included 11 retic-hybrids, 8 non-retic hybrids, 4 japonicas and 2 others. Of course different people would pick different cultivars to lust for, but the following would be my choices. All are non-retic hybrids (*C. x Williamsii*).

1. 'Ivonne Marie': White, peony, more than 5 inches.
2. 'Jean Claris': Deep pink, formal double, about 4½ inches.
3. 'Ailsa James': Rose pink, peony, 5½ inches.
4. 'Pearly Shells': Pearly pink, formal double, about 4¾ inches.
5. 'Taylor Maid': Bright pink, anemone, about 4½ inches.

In Australia, 16 cultivars were registered in 1984. This group included 14 retic-hybrids, 1 non-retic hybrid and 1 japonica. Since I have given up trying to grow the retics and am not a fancier of the small roseaflora-type flowers, the only one I would feel comfortable recommending to our readers is the japonica. I have not seen even a picture of it, but the description sounds so interesting till I would graft it if I could and would recommend it to my friends. The name of this new japonica is 'Sharyn's Blush.' It is described as a 140 mm (about 5½ inches) formal double, similar in color to a sliced strawberry!

## COMMENT WORTH PASSING ON

There is no reason for continuing to grow camellia plants that are not "first class."

Meyer Piet, Arcadia, CA

# *I FIGHT THE ALBERTA CLIPPER*

**James H. McCoy**

**Fayetteville, NC**

The devastating cold of Christmas Eve, 1983, killed 25 to 30 small grafted camellia plants that had been planted out from containers in late fall. They were all replaced in the spring of 1984. They grew well all through the spring, summer, fall and early part of winter. But on the morning of Sunday, January 20, 1985, the temperature in Fayetteville stood at 19 degrees F. As if this were not frightening enough, the weather man predicted that the temperature would drop Sunday night to 5 degrees F. or less. I believed him! I panicked! I tried to come up with some way to protect my most cherished small camellias. I did not worry about the greenhouse. The plants there would be protected from the wind and I believed that I could keep the temperature at least in the teens or maybe even the low 20s. I could flood the pots with water and thaw them out if they did freeze. But I had some precious small plants outside! Was there nothing I could do for them?

One, in particular, I especially wanted to protect. It was a chance seedling that I had never seen bloom. The buds were destroyed last year by the Siberian Express. This year it had a dozen or more buds, each as large as a guinea egg and just showing color. I did not have any cultivar growing outside with buds so large as these, not even 'Tomorrow,' 'R.L. Wheeler,' or even 'Gigantea.' I just imagined myself going down in camellia history as the originator of 'Tomorrow's' successor. "Successor," meaning the camellia that took 'Tomorrow's' place as the "greatest" camellia after 'Ville.' Was I going to lose all buds again!

I racked my mind for some method to protect the buds on this plant. I remembered that my father grew oranges in Charleston, SC several years by running an electrical line out to the small tree, covering it with plastic and placing a large electric light bulb under the plastic "tent." This was not feasible for me because the plant was situated at the bottom of my garden, several hundred feet from the nearest source of electricity.

I considered using 3-inch fiberglass insulation batts. I thought that I might tie the branches closer to the trunk and sandwich the entire plant between two layers of this insulation. After all, Bill Ackerman does much the same with microfoam. I had to abandon that idea because I didn't have enough fiberglass (I did protect a smaller plant in this manner, as photo No. 1 indicates).

I finally settled on protecting, or trying to protect, several individual buds. I took a piece of fiberglass insulation about 4 x 8 inches, folded it around the bud and fastened it in place with large finishing nails. I covered about a dozen buds like this.

When we looked at the thermometer Monday morning, January 21st, we could not believe what it indicated, 0 degrees F! Did I succeed in saving those few buds? Time will tell! I uncovered them after the severe cold had passed, and they looked just like the ones which I did not try to protect. An engineer who knows about such things told me that by wrapping the buds like this, I just delayed the freezing process a little, I did not prevent the freezing process



from taking place. This may be, but if so, why would insulating water lines prevent them from freezing and bursting! Anyway, I have marked these "insulated" buds by inserting one of the finishing nails through an adjacent leaf.

Now back to photo No. 1 and the "camellia plant sandwich." I had a small plant, about 30 inches tall, of an unknown variety from the garden of my stepmother. Though its name was not known, it so impressed me by its beauty till I grafted it anyway. To give it **some** identity, I wrote 'Milly's late formal' on the tag, because it was blooming in late March. It opened its first bloom, ungibbed, in October, another in November and had several more buds still tight when the hard freeze was predicted. I wondered if I had some rare variety that bloomed from early in the season to late. This is the plant I tried to protect. I tied all branches as close to the trunk as I could, and wrapped a piece of full thick fiberglass insulation around it from the ground up and past the highest leaf. I tied the insulation in place and in addition, pinned it closed with long finishing nails. To protect the insulation from snow and rain, I covered the whole thing with a plastic trash bag and tied it in place.

The cold has now passed and the plant and buds uncovered, but still do not know the extent of the cold damage (or the lack of damage) due to my machinations. I do believe though, that any evaluator of my performance would at least give me an "A" for effort, don't you?



*Photo No. 1 Fiberglass insulated Camellia*

## *You Can't See The Forest Through The Trees*

**Geary Serpas**

**Summerville, SC**

Exactly defined, pH is the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen ion concentration. A more simple explanation is that the pH is a number between 0 and 14, denoting various degrees of acidity or alkalinity. Neutral water has a pH of 7. Values below 7 and approaching 0 are

increasingly acid while values from 7 to 14 are increasingly alkaline.

Now that everyone is wondering what all of this has to do with Camellias, let me relate my situation.

Close to 15 years ago, Buster and Helen Bush trapped or ensnared me into the wonderful hobby of growing

Camellias. At the time we lived in Lugoff, SC and I started off modestly by planting a few on the "Red Clay" hill where we lived. Well, it did not take me long to acquire a greenhouse (ask Bonnie about my \$60.00 greenhouse).

Under the careful instruction of Buster and Helen I began to have some success showing Camellias. I was certainly no threat to the really good growers, but I would occasionally win some category here or there. My plants continued to improve as well as my selection of varieties.

I should point out that all of the time in Lugoff, SC my water supply was a well. The water had some iron in it (red water) and was fairly corrosive. In fact, Bonnie had to use heavy detergents to keep the fixtures and clothes clean and white. But the Camellias continued to do well and I began to be more competitive. By this time most of my plants were in containers in a 1/2 and 1/2 bark mixture with a few in different mixtures as I continued to experiment.

During 1974 I was transferred to a new plant in the Charleston Area. Bonnie and I purchased a home in the Summerville Area and one of the first things that we did was build a new 1,000 square foot greenhouse. Since my good friend Mack MacKinnon was keeping my plants at his home in Camden, SC, I was concerned that if he kept them for any time, he would surely end up killing them.

After moving my plants to Summerville things went along well for about the first year and then gradually my plants began to look sickly and not producing quality blooms. The second year things were getting worse and the quality of the blooms really began to deteriorate.

Ah! Time to repot, so I bare rooted all the plants and repotted them in a different mixture (after much discussion with many "experts"). For several months to about one year I could see more improvement and perhaps even got a few decent blooms, and then began a slow deterioration even to the point of losing a few plants. What to do? Try liming the plants? The condition of the plants continued to worsen, very little new growth, poor bud set and worse yet very poor blooms. More plants died, what to do? Ah! repot the plants to a different mixture (after much discussion with many "experts") bare rooting the approximate 200 plants that are now down to less than 150 sickly looking specimens.

To make a long story short, the above sequence was repeated about four times (and I mean total bare rooting while repotting). I could almost recognize the plants by their roots. Fortunately, I was very successful grafting all the new varieties which I would proceed to lose in about two years. In fact, I would graft for some of my friends and they would get their plants as quickly as possible before I would kill them. I developed a reputation as a real "killer" of plants.

After about ten years of losing plants and producing very few blooms I struck upon a brilliant idea. Since one of my responsibilities at my place of employment is the total water treatment for a major industry, I would check my water.

Since moving to Summerville ten years ago and moving into my home which just happens to be on the first street from the water treatment plant, a total distance of less than one mile, I never gave the quality of my water any thought at all. It always looked



good and tasted fine, and being close to the plant I always had excellent water pressure.

My analysis of the water sample showed a pH of 8.3 and a chlorine residual of greater than 2.0 ppm, all of which makes sense since most municipal water plants export the water to the community at a high pH (around 8.3) to prevent corrosion in the distribution system. As the water flows through all of the municipal pipes the pH increases but hopefully remains above a pH of 7.0 at the most distant point. The same applies to the chlorine, the plant sends the chlorine out in the range of 2.0+ ppm so that by the time the water gets to the furthestmost user, the chlorine residual would still be greater than zero.

All of the literature states that Camellias like a pH of about 5.8 to 6.8, just slightly acidic. Remember a pH of 7.0 would be neutral. So you can imagine what was happening to my plants with a steady diet of 8.3 pH water. This has the same results of liming the plants continuously. Also, the high chlorine residual would also have a detrimental effect.

Ah! Now what to do? Two possibilities exit 1) dig a well or 2) treat the municipal water. After much thought and not talking to any experts, I decided to treat the water. I had access to a fiberglass open top tank and some pH measuring equipment, plus an old pump from a long ago discarded washing machine. I decided to adjust the pH of the water with muriatic acid (dilute hydro-chloric acid). This was chosen because it is readily available from building supply places and the price is quite reasonable as well as not being too

difficult to handle from a safety aspect. The amount of acid to add can be calculated or be determined by trial and error. For my water here in the Summerville area, it takes approximately 16 oz. by volume (2 cups) of muriatic acid for 350 gallons of water to give a pH of about 6.0. The acid is added to the tank while it is being filled with water in order to give good mixing. Also, the tank, having an open top with a screen wire cover to keep out leaves, etc. allows the chlorine to escape. By the time the water is used, the pH is adjusted and the chlorine is dissipated. Recognizing that a more exact or elaborate system could be installed, I have found this to be more than adequate. This system has been in use for about one year and the plants are greatly improved in appearance with good new growth and best of all are producing much better blooms. I would say that the plants should be producing competitive blooms by next year.

I have conducted my own informal survey among my friends who are consistently on the head table and guess what, the majority of the consistent show winners (or more competitive growers) water their plants with either well water or water from a pond. So for any of you growers who are on city water and are not having much luck with your container grown plants, perhaps you should take a look at something as simple as the quality (pH) of the most important and common ingredient of your Camellia culture. It took me almost ten years to find the forest because the trees were in the way.



# *The Real Danger From The Siberian Express*

Hulyn Smith

Valdosta, GA

On Sunday, January 20, 1985, I left Mobile and the ACS convention bright and early so I could get to Valdosta, Georgia ahead of the "Siberian Express." It was already bad at 5:00 a.m. We arrived in Valdosta at about 1:00 p.m. and I commenced immediately to prepare for a miserable night. Packed 325 container plants in the greenhouse, saturated the area with water, turned on the heat and closed up the house. All this work was completed with the help of my son-in-law just ahead of Super Bowl XIX.

Monday morning it was down to 2 degrees F. But in the greenhouse it was 28 degrees. These plants had never seen weather below 35 degrees before.

I am happy to report that they survived. Very little blossom damage and **no** bud damage. This is not the most important part. What effect is this second year of horrible weather going to do to the average grower? All of you who have read this article are survivors, and are dedicated, and will continue to press on. What concerns me today is this: Will people continue to use camellias in the landscape? Will the nurseries continue to

propagate camellias? Will the small, average grower press on or give up? These are very important questions. If these things happen which I fear might, then our society will be adversely affected and we could be years overcoming this misfortune.

So what can we, the advanced hobbyists, do?

1. We must pass on all information possible to local growers as to what they should do with their plants now and this spring, such as severe pruning, spraying and fertilizing.
2. Root cuttings of good standard varieties to give away. Don't give or recommend varieties that you know will not survive.
3. Urge them to join local societies and, by all means, the ACS. The ACS publications are so beneficial to them. We must do all we can to hold their interest.

To all members of the ACCS, I urge you to keep a stiff upper lip. These are not the only bad times that you have faced, survived and prospered. It may be another hundred years before it gets this cold again. Just remember what the teenagers say, "Ride on!"



*Everybody's favorite camellia couple, Donna and Bill Shepherd.*

# IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

**James H. McCoy**

**Fayetteville, NC**

Camellia rootrot, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, is doubtless the most outstanding problem that we are faced with today, far surpassing, as a killer, any other disease. Yet it does not receive the attention, the condemnation that dieback receives or even camellia flower blight, at least here on the East Coast. I guess camellia growers sort of expect to lose some plants - to something. The camellia world rejoiced, nevertheless, at the advent of Ridomil (Subdue). This is a fungicide which was supposed to eradicate rootrot. The only complaint was at the cost. Unfortunately, Subdue is not the panacea that some believe it to be, according to an article in the November-December, 1984 issue of Southern California's "Camellia Review." In this article the author, Martin E. Stoner, states that Subdue will not eliminate this fungus, but that it will help control it. He describes some tests he made using Subdue and reports: "The long term effectiveness and value of Subdue remains to be evaluated. So far it has shown outstanding potency at low concentrations; long residual effects (up to 3-5 months in trials), and strong overall effectiveness in preventing or minimizing disease."

Camellia lovers worldwide luckily don't all appreciate the same camellias. Take the very large blooms of both *reticulata* and *japonica*, very few camellia people in New Zealand and Australia seem to care for them at all. They will ooh and ah at them and express awe in other ways, but according to at least two nursery men, they do not buy them. The small and miniature camellias are wildly popular. One nurseryman in Australia

wrote that he could not supply the demand for a certain miniature hybrid, though he grafted hundreds of them. He decided that he should start rooting them, and he did. Pretty much the same situation exists in New Zealand relative to the filling of orders for a popular New Zealand miniature. I have purposely refrained from mentioning the names of these two cultivars, because there probably are others equally in demand.

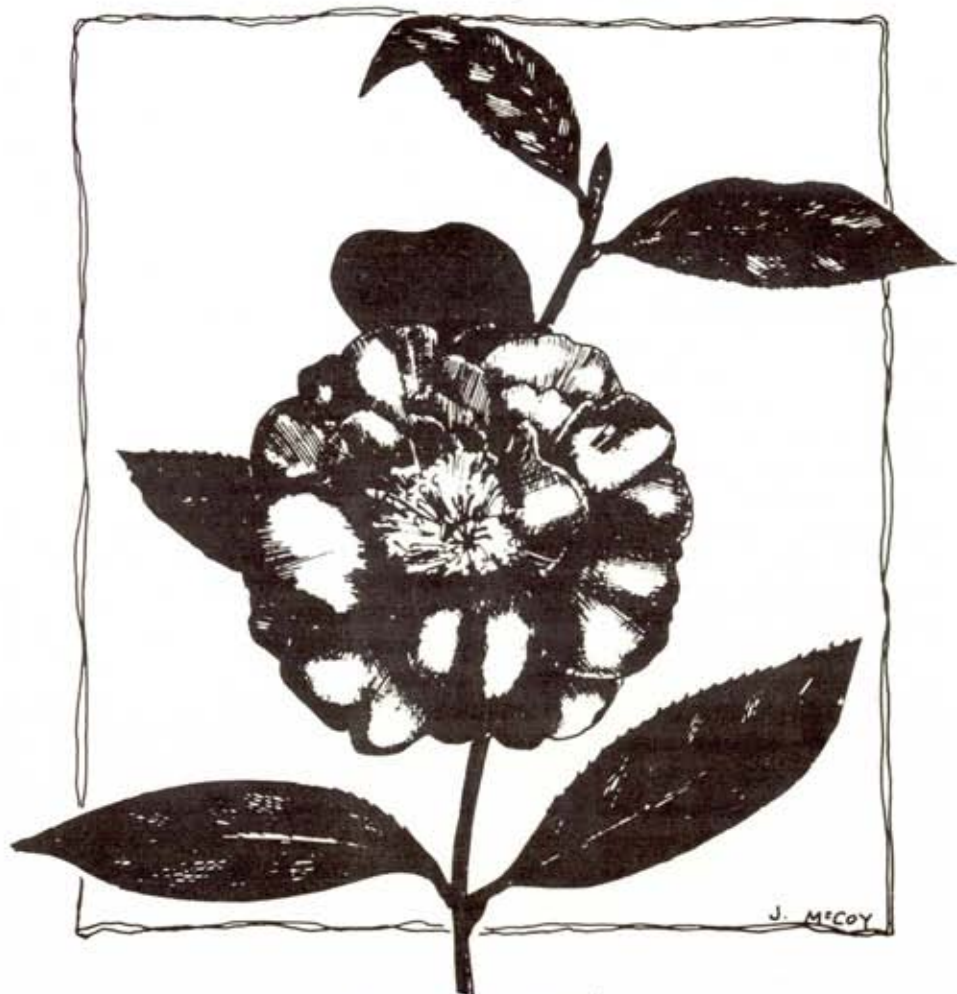
Camellia form is not appreciated the same all over the camellia world, either. In Japan, a very uncomplicated bloom, either single or semi-double form with few petals, is appreciated far more than the peony or full double form. Several years ago, a Japanese friend described to me in a letter a camellia named 'R.B. Whitehead.' He had seen a picture of this camellia on the cover of an American Camellia publication and liked it very much. I had never heard of it. I looked it up in the nomenclature book and couldn't find it. Quite a few years later, I ran across the picture he was referring to on the cover of the January 1983 issue of the ACS Journal. It was a loose semi-double camellia registered as 'Roy Whitehead.' A pretty camellia but definitely not the type that would attract much attention in the States! Professor Kaoru Hagiya, International Camellia Society Director for Asian Region, in an article in the 1984 ICS Journal, states that, "...in Japan, most cultivars are of the single form, and more petalled forms as "rose form double," "loose peony form," and "full peony form" are very few."

The mention of Ernest Aycock in "Camellia Spotlight" brings to mind a method of preserving camellia blooms



in fresh, show condition for two weeks or longer. Ernest told me about this method years ago. This information is probably known to many of you who exhibit blooms in shows, but to others it will come as a surprise. Seal the blossom up air tight in a container with a little water in the bottom. The air must be maintained in a very humid condition. A Tupperware container would be excellent. Put the container in the refrigerator. Nothing new or unusual so far. But chances are, you would like to put the stem of the bloom in an orchid pik or some

other small container of water. Don't do it. It would preserve the flower for about the same length of time, but if the stem of the flower **touches** the water, after two weeks the flower would likely fall apart. Also, some discoloration of the flower toward the center would likely appear. Ernest won his share of trophies. Of course he grew good flowers to start with, and he would wait till the last minute before judging was supposed to start before putting his flowers out. This may have helped too.



*The Camellia*



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