# Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Vol LI

#### ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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About the Cover: This issue's cover features Black Gold, Var.-a black red, small, semidouble flower introduced by Gilley in 1982. Photo by Mary Kay Hall

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# President's Message

By Bobby Reese Jacksonville, Florida

Hope that this message finds all of you doing well. I am very happy to report that Gail and I are doing very well, ourselves and family. We have always counted our many blessings as I hope that you are all able to do at this time.

Last year I wrote about getting "pure excitement" from seeing that lush new growth coming out of those dormant Camellia buds. It is happening again. Our plants are looking brand new and getting that new growth that will give us those magnificent Camellia blooms again next season. It's one of those many things that Camellia growers get excited about.

The ACCS Board of Directors will be meeting on May 1 in Columbia, S.C. We will be putting together plans for our annual meeting in Myrtle Beach September 24 and 25, 2004. At our Myrtle Beach meeting, we will be electing new officers for our society. appoint a nominating committee in May who will present of nominees their slate If members want to September. nominate someone from the floor, be obtain that persons permission and agreement to serve in the capacity to which he/she may be elected.

The ACS will be meeting with us this year. You will all want to be present. Having the officers of ACS with us will add so much to the occasion. This will be a great opportunity for each of us to express our thanks to our ACS leaders for all that they do for us and the advancement of our much loved Camellia.

You need to mark your calendar right now for September 24 and 25. I missed some of you last year; but, oh! What YOU missed by not being there with us.

I HAVE DONE IT THIS TIME! I have cut my Camellia plants back so far that my wife isn't speaking to me. My poor dog won't even hold her head up when walking through the yard. Someone please tell me that they will not die. IF THEY DO DIE, I MIGHT COME UP MISSING.

Now for those of you who still have an abundance of large healthy plants, you need to get right to airlayering your very best for the Buck & Bill Show at our Myrtle Beach Annual Meeting. Both Mizzell and Bill Robertson assure me that with your best plants and their combined talents they (Buck & Bill) can become a sight to be seen. Please help them to be at their very by bringing your best. Remember, your plants and other items put up for auction or raffle is the life blood of our society.

Oh, by the way, I still have lots of great daylilies that each and

everyone should make an effort to get their hands on. Gail and I will bring a number of them to Myrtle Beach in September.

With the Camellia season behind me nothing has slowed down. I always have more to do than I can get done. With all that I have to do, it seems a shame that I have so little to say; but who wants to hear about work-work-work. My best news: I'm going fishing tomorrow! Wish you could join me.

Looking Forward,

Bob Reese



Setting up the head table Gainesville 2004

#### Camellia Miscellaneous

#### By Jerry Hogsette Gainesville Camellia Society

The Camellia season is over as far as shows go, but there will be Camellia gardens full of colorful greens for weeks to come. The muchneeded rain and mild temperatures have possibly played conflicting roles in a bloom season slowed by dry conditions. Warmer temperatures usually tend to make flowers open up, but water is also needed to make this happen. Some of you may have noticed how your flowers seemed to pop open overnight after good rains. You can simulate this artificially with or without gibberellic acid plus a heavy dose of water when programming flowers to open for shows. Heavy rains followed by several days of high humidity and foggy conditions such as were experienced in Gainesville in late January cause flowers to pop open, fill up too much with water and drop off the plants prematurely. These conditions also promote the growth of botrytis, the fungus that turns petals brown almost as soon as the Camellia flowers open. This is just one good reason to keep fallen flowers picked up and disposed of in sealed plastic bags. Botrytis begins to show up in January with the appearance of warmer foggy mornings.

Now is the time to prune plants for spring and summer growth, and subsequent production of buds for the next bloom season. The best

blooms are usually produced on new For those of you with growth. younger plants ranging in size up to 3 to 4 feet, your job is to get these plants off the ground. Otherwise trim them to grow upward. Get rid of lateral branches close to the ground that are pointing towards the These take energy away from branches growing upward. Trim off branches and shoots growing inward towards the main trunk of the plant. As you cut flowers for shows or whatever, keep pruning in mind. If the flower is on a particularly long stem, trim the stem after cutting the flower.

Finally, there are some Camellia growers who like to experiment and are looking for different and little seen varieties. At several meetings I have heard people indicate an interest in finding some of Dr. William Ackerman's cold hardy Camellias. I have seen a few of these (Winter's Fire, Winter's Interlude, etc.) around Gainesville recently at Home Depot, occasionally at Lowe's, and less frequently at the local nurseries. However, there is a nursery on Long Island from which I have made numerous purchases (mostly azaleas) that has a nice selection of the Ackerman Camellias (plus lots of other interesting things). The Roslyn Nursery is located in Dix Hills, New York, and if the Camellias will live there, they should do o.k. here if they

can handle the heat! Call (631 643-9347) for a catalogue or view their plant selections on their website <a href="http://www/roslynnursery.com">http://www/roslynnursery.com</a>. And

don't forget, when shows are over and pruning season has arrived, cut those remaining long-stemmed beauties for your wife or friends.



Nancy Falta, Mary Rhodes & Buck Mizzell Gainesville 2004



Maurice Manuel, Clayton Mathis & Ron Wolfe Gainesville 2004

# My Introduction to Elaine Smelley

By Chuck Carlson Gainesville FL Camellia Society

This year I was a little excited about taking some Camellia blooms to the Gainesville show. Even though my wife had consigned five dozen of my best blooms as decorations for our 50th wedding anniversary, I had some pretty nice flowers to take to the show held several days later.

I arrived later than I had planned and took the last place left at a preparation table. I stacked my boxes of Camellias on the table and went in search of some trays and cups of water. When I returned to the table, a rather pleasant looking lady was stacking box after box of blooms on the table next to me.

The lady opened the first box as I looked on in amazement. The first Camellia removed looked like an artist's conception of Showtime. I thought to myself, now this flower could not possibly be real. Then she opened more boxes of the same. I looked at the Showtime that I brought and was so proud of that I thought could be a show winner. However when compared to hers it looked like a poor cousin-scrawny, undernourished and about a third the size. I asked her if those Showtimes were real and she assured me they were. Then she proceeded to bring out box after box of the most beautiful Camellia blossoms I have ever seen.

I couldn't bear to open my box I was so embarrassed. My immediate thought was to take my blooms over to the trash bin and dump them. Then she graciously looked over at my blooms and admired my little (it didn't look so little when I cut it) My Nancy. It was instantly obvious to me that I was putting out blooms next to a member of the "royalty" of the Camellia world. Not only did she have gorgeous blooms, but she was confident enough of her position to be nice to "commoners" like me.

It was obvious that she had prepared well for the show and continued to work efficiently while I fumbled around trying to get organized and get my blooms entered in time for judging. In due course, I found out that the lady was the fabulous Elaine Smelley from Moss Point, MS about whom I had heard so much-whose Elaine's Betty I had successfully grafted last year. She was entering a bloom of her Elaine's Betty Red. I just had to have a plant of this. I asked her if she would consider sharing a scion of it with me. She said that if I would write her a letter to remind her that she would.

In my heart of hearts I felt that she would be too busy or forget to send the scion for some other reason. A week later, however, I sent her the letter. Not only did I ask for Elaine's Betty Red but also asked if she would share Deep Secret and a half dozen others with me. I had made note of varieties at the show that I thought

were especially beautiful. I thought, if you're going to ask for something you aren't likely to get, why not go big? I was absolutely stunned a week later to get a package from Elaine with all I had asked for—beautiful scions—the kind you would expect from a professional.

This accidental meeting of Elaine Smelley, among other things, has caused me to realize that the best thing about participating in shows and Camellia society functions is meeting all the nice people.

Judges School
August 28, 2004
Beautiful Charleston, SC
\$20 per person (includes lunch)
9 AM to 4 PM
Miles A. Beach, Jr.
262 Alexandra Road
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 881-6420
or
Tom Mitchum - (843) 744-3932

Mark your calendars ACCS Fall Meeting September 24 & 25, 2004 Myrtle Beach, SC

Members will receive a registration form and schedule from the secretary.

Make your reservations early at
The Sand Castle Family Resort
Call Doris Thompson at 1 800 626-1550
Res # 59849 for 2 nights (Friday & Saturday)
Res # 67033 for 3 nights (Thursday - Saturday)

# Story of the Importation of C. Reticulata from China

J. Howard Asper Escondido, California (Reprinted from the Camellia Review, Vol. 24, No. 4, Feb. 1963)

During the year of 1945 arrangements were made for Dr. Walter E. Lammerts to begin a term of employment at Rancho del Descanso, now known as Descanso Gardens. The sustaining business of the Rancho at that time was the sale of Camellia plants, flowers and foliage. Public interest in Camellias was growing rapidly and Camellia japonica varieties were in great demand, especially those varieties which were new and recently introduced. Camellia sasangua varieties were propagated in limited number but other species were practically unknown. The one exception was Camellia Reticulata variety, Capt. Rawes. While a plant of this mysterious and fabulous variety had been growing for many vears in Strawberry Canyon on the University of California campus at Berkeley, it was only then that grafts were being made and offered for sale by a few nurseries. As manager of the Rancho I was offered twelveinch grafts on four-inch pot under stock at a price of thirty-five dollars each and a minimum of ten plants. When we had finally purchased some plants for scion wood, the man who did my grafting told me that he had been offered ten dollars per scion for any he could manage to slip

out in his lunch basket. He never told me who made the offer and I am glad that he did not.

One of Dr. Lammert's first tasks was to find out all he could about Camellias and he did the job in his usual masterful style. Sure enough in a French botanical work published about 1850, he discovered reference to varieties of Camellia Reticulata which the author had seen blooming in Yunnan Province high in the mountains of China. The beauty of the flowers of these varieties, the author declared, was greater than any he had ever seen and truly beggared description.

This intelligence, coming at a time when demand and price for Camellia Reticulata Capt. Rawes was so great, really fired our imaginations and steeled our determination to obtain these fabulous varieties, if indeed they did exist. Letters were sent to various people who might be able to supply information. Finally from one Dr. Hu, who was then doing some work at the Arnold Arboretum at Boston, Mass., came a letter confirming both the fact of their existence and their great beauty. He suggested a letter be sent to one Prof. Tsai at the Kumming Horticultural College requesting further information.

The letter was of course. promptly dispatched but alas no word of reply for a period of about six months. Then a very modest letter came stating that the varieties did exist and that they were indeed beautiful. Another letter was sent requesting information as to price, shipping methods, etc. but Prof. Tsai was evidently not very interested in foreign trade for we waited another long period for an answer. Time slipped by and it was not until March of 1948 that arrangements were finally completed and we were informed that our precious plants, 20 in number, were on their way via Chinese National Airways to Shanghai and then by Pan American to San Francisco. They were scheduled to arrive on the evening of March 18th.

Much excitement was engendered at the Ranch by the arrival of this news and it was decided that Dr. Lammerts should journey to San Francisco to greet the plants upon their arrival and supervise their transfer to the Rancho. This proved to be a fortunate decision since Prof. Tsai had shipped the plants in clay pots, unaware that this practice was strictly forbidden by the United States Plant Quarantine officials. In fact the Quarantine officials could only think of one solution to this infraction of their rules and that was to dump the whole shipment in the bay. But in response to the earnest pleading of Dr. Lammerts they settled for washing all the soil off the roots and dumping that in the bay, while putting the plants through methyl bromide fumigation.

The plants arrived at the Rancho amid loud shouts of joy as we eagerly inspected them and tenderly planted them in our most intelligent manner. However, the plants were slow to respond to our kind treatment and five plants out of twenty had been weakened by their long journey. No doubt some of the fumigation gas had been able to penetrate and thus contribute to the death of the plants. Several attempts were made to replace the dead plants but with absolutely no success.

About two months later we learned that Ralph Peer had imported one plant each of the same varieties from the same source. However his plants had been shipped bare root and his rate of loss had been extremely high, in fact he had been able to save only three plants. Upon comparing notes we made the incredible discovery that the three varieties he saved were of the five which we had lost. Between us we were both able to have eighteen varieties of the original twenty.

Later, in the fall of 1948, we had a letter from Prof. Tsai stating that a friend of his had crossed the C. species Pitardii x Butterfly Wings and two of the resultant seedlings were description. beautiful beyond Furthermore he was willing to part with these two seedlings for a sum of eight hundred dollars. He evidently liked the feel of our money and while this did seem a pretty high price we decided to buy them. Again a long delay before we finally received word in May of 1949 that the plants were being shipped.

This time things did not go so

well. Some mistake was made at Shanghai and our plants were put on a plane bound for Vancouver, B. C. In order to correct the mistake the package was put off at Honolulu and here they fell into the hands of some inspector who opened the package and discovered that the plants were more than 36 inches in height and that was beyond the legal limit, so he kept the plants in order to await further instructions. It took us ten days to finally get an order to him to release the plants. While I cannot remember his name I do remember some names he was called!

When the plants finally arrived at the Rancho they were in terrible condition. The inspector had dutifully cut off the tops in order to comply with the 36-inch height limit and from the dried appearance of the plants he must have stored them on a shelf above the cook stove.

We soaked the plants in warm water for several hours and then planted them in boxes over which we built pliofilm covers which we called oxygen tents. After several weeks one little green shoot appeared and grew to be about an inch long. Suddenly it wilted and we reasoned this was our only chance to save it, so a graft was made of the very green wood. After months of care it started to grow and that is how nearly we lost the variety *Buddha*. The other was easier to save and it was named *Confucius*.

Much more could be written about the performance of these wonderful plants in our gardens but this article must limit itself to the story of their importation. But I do want to say that all of us who worried and worked for their importation feel amply rewarded just to have had a part in bringing them to America. Truly their beauty does beggar description.



Linda Carol

# Growing 'Em vs. Planting 'Em

By Rupie Drews Charleston, SC

(Reprinted from Carolina Camellias, Vol. XXXIV, Fall 1983, No. 3)

Several years ago, a neighbor who wanted to borrow a shovel from me indicated that he had recently purchased several Camellia plants and that he was going to grow Camellias. I told him that he might PLANT Camellias but it takes more than a shovel to GROW them.

Thousands of people in the Charleston area plant Camellias because so many think it is a southern or social must. However, it's truly a shame that only a few grow them. It would be wonderful if everyone would grow them for the love of the plant and the beauty of the flower rather than the social status they think it might bring.

Last year while speaking to one of our local garden clubs on how I grow Camellias, I facetiously told members if they can't grow them in Charleston, they ought to asphalt their yards.

There are several natural factors that we have in the Low Country that are conducive to growing healthy Camellias. They are:

- Located near the same latitude as the Camellia's natural habitat.
- Mostly sandy soil for good drainage.
- 3. High humidity.
- An average rainfall of over 45 inches per year.
- An abundance of pine trees for filtered shade.

Fortunately, our yard is on a "hill" with lots of tall pines. A hill in Charleston is when your lot is 5 feet higher than your neighbor's. So not only do we have good soil, but also a slope which provides additional drainage. Good drainage is foremost. Without it, other important practices are meaningless.

I normally plant my Camellias starting in November. I dig a shallow hole in which I put a mixture of ½ pine bark mulch and ½ building sand for additional drainage.

Why drainage, drainage, drainage? Because I water, water, water. And you cannot water, water, water without good drainage. Remember the Camellia bloom is 95 percent water.

I don't use "city" water, but well water which I believe is high in mineral content because of its beige color. However, I have never had my well water analyzed.

I really don't expect to get show blooms the first year I place a plant into the ground. The first year, all I want is survival. Don't have high expectations the first year.

For the past 25 years and up until last year, I had been using 16-4-8 with iron (regular southern lawn fertilizer) in early March and again in late June. I also use 0-14-14 in late October.

Now let me tell you a true story: In December of 1982, I gave a friend of mine four two-year-old air layers that were approximately 18 inches tall along with about 4 ounces of Osmacote with instructions. As of August 1983, one of the plants, a Julia France, measured 6 feet, 11 inches tall! Needless to say, this past February I completely changed from the commercial 16-4-8 to Osmacote. The 18-6-12 Osmacote is good for 9 months. And with 0-14-14, I feel that I have a complete yearly feeding program with only two applications.

I used Cygon when it first hit the market. Then one year I had zero grafts to take. I blamed Cygon, and changed back to Oil-i-cide that I had been using prior to Cygon. Research by Dr. Luther Baxter indicated that I had unjustly blamed Cygon. I don't have any scale, but I do spray with oil in early spring strictly for a preventive maintenance program.

After reading this article, please use my tips on water, watering, drainage, and fertilizer to GROW Camellias and please don't asphalt your yard.



Miss Charleston, Var.

# **Totipotency**

#### By Richard Mims

Totipotency is the ability of a cell, such as an egg, to produce unlike cells and form into similar or different individuals or parts. This is the general definition from several sources. This ability has been very much in the news recently as it concerns the controversial cloning of animals and human beings-and yes, even the possibility of making body parts to replace diseased parts in the human body. Some of this happens naturally in nature in lower life forms. A chameleon, for example, has the ability to grow a new tail if the tail is broken off by a predator or by a greenhouse grower who grabs it by the tail to throw it out of the greenhouse before applying insecticides that might harm it.

Totipotency is an ability also used in the plant world and also stirs up controversy. For decades, orchids have been reproduced from mare stems-a form of in vitro tissue culture in a sterile, "test tube" environment. Daylily "developers" and other plant specialists who do not have the wherewithal of tissue culture have objected to tissue culture under the guise that "should the cells used be genetically defective then the plants produced therefrom (being clones) will harbor the same defective traits." This is true. However, the true reason for objection is that it hurts the originators where it usually hurts most-in the pocket book. High prices cannot be garnered from new introductions when commercial

growers can take a centimeter square from one flower petal and produce literally thousands of identical plants.

This is not a scientific paper by any means and with the risk of misinterpretation because of over simplification I want us to think of totipotency in plants as any form of asexual propagation as opposed to sexual (seed) propagation. That is, each living plant cell contains the genetic information for reconstituting all the plant parts and functions. (A complete plant with roots can be produced from a leaf or bud cutting.) My first recollection of asexual propagation wasn't called asexual propagation. I remember my mother and neighbors collaborating and sharing plants by asking "for a start," of a certain plant. They would say, "I want a start of that white japonica or that purple magnolia in your yard. They could have cared less as to whether it was White by the Gate or Magnolia Soulangeana.-back then names didn't matter. What mattered was the beauty of the flower. What that meant was that the neighbor would pull out some of their broken "brick bats," (remember that term?) pull down the limbs hanging closest to the ground, take a knife and scrape the bark of split the stem and poke a stick in it, dig out a small hole, pull down the branch into the hole, cover it with dirt and put the brick bat on top to hold it down until it rooted. They would then share the new plant

by giving it to the neighbor. (In my neighborhood, during the great depression and afterwards people couldn't afford to buy food much less plants.) In fact, I don't remember my parents ever purchasing shrubbery; yet the yard in Eutawville, SC was attractive because people in the community shared not only "starts" or perennials but also saved and shared seeds of heirloom varieties of vegetables and annuals.

Our ancestors observed the natural ways plants increase and adopted them. They noticed that many plants and bulbs produced offsets that already had roots. These offsets could be pulled off and planted or multiplied by dividing. We do that today with most perennials and bulbs. Tuberous crops such as Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes would usually rot if left over winter. They were "banked" and covered with straw and dirt to prevent freeze and frost from reaching them. People found that more of the food could be eaten if only the small eyes were used for production of the next crop. They used shoots and branches buried in the ground for fences. Some grew into trees. I observed in England many fences made of growing trees. Three years ago a 6' limb of weeping willow was blown by a storm from the neighbor's yard to my yard. It was a pretty branch and I stuck it into the ground by my koi pond just to see how a plant that size would look in that spot. It stayed green and rooted. Last year I dug the 10' tree and gave it to a friend because I didn't have space for it to grow. They found that when certain trees are dug, new shoots sprout on the roots left in the ground. This is an excellent way to

propagate crepe myrtle—just chop around the trees, cut the roots and new trees will sprout. Our journals have had articles on root propagation of Camellias-a good root is cut from the Camellia and planted with the top exposed. It will bud out and grow into a plant. I have been told (but have never tried it) that the tap root cut from a seedling can be treated the same way to get two plants from one seed.

With the advent of rooting hormones, learning to use sphagnum moss for air layering, and tissue culture—rare varieties have become plentiful. Plants, including Camellias are now propagated by the tens of thousands and are within the reach of anyone with a little cash to spare or for the hobbyist like you or me who are "does it yourself" people.

I became a "does it myself" person out of necessity. With four children in school and college at the same time, I felt that I could hardly afford one plant much less 20 or 30 to use in landscaping. What I would do is just buy one plant to use for propagation and in a few years I would have enough for my project. This is how I learned propagation.

April and May are good months for air layering. If you haven't tried it, please do. With this article is a diagram I have used for club presentations for forty years. I think, perhaps, the original drawing was made by Jim McCoy, a former editor of Carolina Camellias.

Keep making the experiments. There seems to be no end to better ways of doing things—especially with plants-because of this thing called totipotency.

#### AIR LAYERING

 Completely remove a ring of bark including cambrium layer from section of branch to be rooted. Ring should be about 2 or 2 1/2 times as wide as the diameter of the branch. Trunk of branch may be 1/4" or more than
 in diameter.



 Place around the ball of moss a piece of aluminum foil about 6"x 8".
 Twist ends of the foil around the trunk to hold the ball in place.
 During periods of heavy rainfall, it helps to remove water by squeezing the ball.





 Wet ball of sphaghnum moss and place it so it covers the cut evenly. Wring out excess moisture.
 On a small plant the ball will be about 2" in diameter.



4. When roots are established, cut off the branch below the ball. Remove the foil and plant in a pot of good soil. If the layering is done in April or May, they should be ready to pot by September or October.

# **Propagating Camellias Using Cuttings**

#### By Richard Mims

Most gardeners learn early how to propagate by rooting cuttings (scions). This article is written for some of the newer members who might need a little nudge or assurance as to what to do to begin this interesting, fun thing.

Giving directions on rooting cuttings in this May issue of Atlantic Coast Camellias seems appropriate. The new growth that will be propagated this year is now growing and will mature for rooting in just a few weeks. The very best time to take and root the cuttings is when the wood matures until it is slightly brittle and will snap when bent. That time in the Southeastern states varies from June through August as one moves in the opposite direction of the magnificent fall leaf colors-from Florida north. From talking with fellow Camellia growers and from my experience, I would say mid-June in Florida, late-June in Georgia and Coastal Carolina, and from July through August from mid-South Carolina on up north.

As soon as cuttings become brittle, they should be "stuck" into a rooting bed made with a proper rooting environment in mind. The most inexpensive rooting bed could be a plastic container with good drainage enclosed in a plastic bag. A happy medium would be a timed misting system for rooting cuttings. A more elaborate rooting environment is a greenhouse dedicated to rooting. The rooting greenhouse can

have all the "bells and whistles" that keep the environment almost perfect as to humidity and moisture. If the rooting bed you make is not transportable, be certain to build it in a place where it will get plenty of light without much direct sunshine.

Should only a half a dozen plants be wanted, the "rooting bed" could be a large plastic flower pot. (Clay pots rob the medium of moisture.) Frame the pot with wire coat hangars or something that will not collapse in a rain or wind. A 2'x2' frame should accommodate 140-150 cuttings. A 4'x8'frame would almost handle a commercial operation. A great frame can be made with 2"x8" boards. The frame of the rooting bed should be not less than 8" inches deep to accommodate 3 to 4 inches of rooting medium in the bottom. Ideally, the frame should be underground to protect cuttings roots from bitter above-ground freezes over winter; especially should the grower plan to over winter the tender plants in the frame and pot them in spring. If the rooting bed is in a greenhouse it could be above ground to make the sticking and care of the plants easier.

After the frame or bed is made, it must be covered to hold in moisture and humidity. The best cover is polyethylene (poly). To hold poly up, make a frame of wood covered with wire. Use one piece of poly to cover the frame and make it as air tight as possible. The cover of wood and wire prevents the poly from crushing the

plants in harsh weather. The result is a mini-greenhouse a foot or two high covering a rooting bed—sort of like a cold frame.

A glass or hard plastic cover may also be used. It can fit directly on top of the frame and leave 4"of space for the tops of the rooting cuttings.

The rooting medium must not prevent oxygen from reaching the roots. Sand alone tends to pack—especially fine sand. Always use course sand in equal proportion with peat moss or perlite. (I use half playground sand and half perlite.) Never use creek or river sand around Camellias The fungi present in trees in the watershed causes contamination when leaves and other plant material are blown or washed into the water by winds and rains.

Why should cuttings be stuck as soon as they become brittle? Summer heat and warm feet are very important in the rooting process. Camellia cuttings will root throughout the year, in the months other than summer bottom heat greatly increases the percentage of successful rooted cuttings. And, after all, most small growers want to be as economical as possible. Buying elaborate heating pads, misting systems, etc. doesn't cross our minds. Therefore, we are going to be ordinary, economical gardeners and talk back yard rooting instead of commercial rooting. We will hope for a commercial grower to write that article.

Rooting is more economical than air-layering or grafting, and, time can be spent on producing large numbers of plants in a shorter time. While grafting and air-layering produce nice sized plants in a year or two, it takes rooted plants three to four years to come into bloom. Should cuttings try to bloom early, flower buds that are on cuttings should be twisted out carefully without damaging the growth bud beside it. Also, remove buds from one-and two-year rooted plants.

My method of getting cuttings is by cutting within 1/2 inch of the top of a leaf on the old wood. At the top of each leaf on a Camellia plant is a growth bud. If you can see it, call it a growth bud. If you cannot see it, call it an adventitious bud. Usually, the leaf cut down to on old wood is an adventitious bud-but don't let it fool you, it has all the hormones and things necessary to grow that branch end again. Cut carefully to prevent a little dead twig above the leaf that has the adventitious or growth bud that will grow the end of the limb. When a cutting or limb with several cuttings is removed, use a permanent marker or a ball point pen to write the name on a leaf. The cuttings are removed from the parent and placed in a plastic bag that his been "sloshed" inside with water to cause humidity. I use a large trash bag that holds all cuttings I want to make. If I don't feel like putting them out that same day, I toss them in a refrigerator until I can get to the task of sticking them in the rooting bed. I have stuck them up to ten days later with the same number of takes (rooted plants).

When ready to stick cuttings, mix your favorite fungicide in a gallon size, open container. (I use a tablespoon of captan and a tablespoon of benlate to one gallon of water.) As a cutting is prepared, drop it into the fungicide.

To prepare a cutting, use a razor knife, a very sharp knife, or a oneedged razor blade (carefully) for a good clean cut that doesn't mash the stem. I set my bag of cuttings beside me as I sit at a table (sometimes in the kitchen when mosquitoes are bad). I put down several layers of paper under the cutting board. I take a cutting or limb from the bag, place it on the cutting board and cut diagonally through the old and new wood leaving only about 1/3 of the cut surface old wood and 3/4 of the surface new wood. (Remember, when we took the cutting, the cut was made in the old wood). I consider all new growth is only one cutting whether it is 2" or 7." Should wood be scarce, more cuttings may be made from one long cutting of new woodjust be careful to leave at least one leaf per cutting. My experience has been that these small cuttings grow more slowly and in the first year, produce plants spindlier that the others. If a branch has been cut, each piece of new growth can be used. Cut the diagonal cut beside the old wood or directly below a leaf node (where a leaf has grown or is still growing and must be removed). Make the cuttings, number or write the names on each leaf, and drop the cutting in the container of fungicide solution. The fungicide not only coats and protects the cutting from fungal diseases, but also serves to keep it moist until you have finished your cuttings and are ready to stick them.

I mention numbers because numbers are easier to write on leaves and I want identification on each of the two or three leaves (preferably) I leave on the cutting. I write the name of the Camellia on a legal pad and give it a number. If I root 176 cuttings this year my numbers will start with 177 next year and so on to prevent duplication of numbers. If I use permanent marker and one leaf stays on, I can identify the plant.. Ball point pens or pencils many times, however, injure a leaf. Sometimes the leaf area on which the number is written dries or is killed and the number cannot be read. Only when the plants have roots and are potted do they merit the time it takes to make a label.

When all cuttings are prepared, numbered, and in fungicide, stuff plant scraps and newspaper into the garbage bag. Take the prepared cuttings out to the rooting bed. Use a small dowel, stick, cane, pencil or nail to punch a hole only deep enough to make the cutting stand up. (The cutting does best in the area that water passes through quickly but doesn't Ray Watson who roots linger. thousands of Camellias told me this. He said that all soil has a water level including that in containers. Below that water level, it is too wet for tender young cutting roots.) Dust or dip the raw end of the cutting in rooting hormone either liquid or powder. Insert the cutting in the prepared hole and firm it in with a finger. (The reason the cutting is placed in the prepared hole is because pushing it in directly would scrape off most of the rooting hormone.)

The plants may be placed very close without touching. However, if cuttings are placed two or three inches apart, fewer roots are broken and disturbed when potting the plant. After the cuttings are in, condensation should be present inside the covering over the rooting bed. Usually watering every 7 to 10 days within the covered bed furnishes the moisture for the cuttings to root in two or three months. If the medium is damp and there is condensation on the poly, watering can be omitted until another day.

A gentle pull on the cutting that meets resistance usually signifies that the cutting has calloused and grown roots. Be careful, the few roots will pop off easily. (Callous, from which roots grow, is a tough group of specialized cells that form on the bottom of the cutting.) Many cuttings callous but take a very long time to grow good roots-especially most reticulatas and some japonicas such as Ville de Nantes and Lady Hume's Blush. These plants are not

impossible to root; however, they are difficult to root and seldom develop enough roots to maintain normal growth after rooting. Many die at a young age.

When cuttings root, plant each one in a small pot. I use 4" square pots in a soil mixture of sand, bark, and compost. Square pots are used because they can be placed close together to conserve moisture. Round pots have too much airspace around them. They not only waste space but also tend to make soil dry out faster.

It is extremely important that your cuttings and small plants never dry out and wilt. As soon as the plants in the four inch pots have enough roots to hold the soil, tamp them out and plant them in gallon pots and off they grow.

Good Luck with your cuttings— Oops! SCIONS.

#### THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

#### Membership Dues

### Questionnaire:

# For Editor's Use for Future Journal Articles and Page Fillers

Please get a legal pad and write answers to the questions listed below. Don't trouble yourself with rewriting the question. Just put the number of the question beside your answer. You may find yourself writing an article to answer a question. Please be assured that you will receive credit for anything published. Please bring your legal pad with answers to the Myrtle Beach Convention or mail it to me at 409 Groves Street, Lugoff, SC 29078. I will accept everything in your handwriting. If you can type, it would make it easier. Please be generous with your information and send your name(s) with your answers for proper credit when information is summarized in the **Atlantic Coast Camellias**. If each member or couple would respond, wonderful information would be on hand to share. (It would be a fun thing for a couple to do together.) For example, a list of all societies represented in ACCS would be interesting page filler.

A successful journal will have occasional articles on research projects and results. Results that, hopefully, would aid in some aspect of growing and showing the Camellia family blooms that we all love. Of much interest would be reports on what growers and exhibitors are doing in the several states represented in the Atlantic coast Camellia Society. Humorous articles are usually enjoyed by all. Probably the most eagerly anticipated information wanted by our members would come from those expert growers who always place blooms on the contention and head tables at flower shows. Of interest would be information on the favorite most beautiful blooms, recently introduced that will more than likely be show winners for years to come. Should you want to give information about something not represented by a question, add it after the questionnaire.

Because there seems to be a dire lack of "authors" to submit the above articles, let's try another approach: Will each member please complete the following questionnaire. From the answers we can put together information that all of us will be interested in reading. Please give your name (names if a couple) for us to be able to say "who is doing what." If anything is confidential or "touchy"names will be held by editor in strictest confidence.

First we want to find out the names of all Camellia clubs and societies to which our members belong.

- What is the name of the local Camellia society to which you belong? (Note again. Put your answers on regular lined paper with the number of the question before your answer. The question need not be repeated.)
- 2. Are you a member of the American Camellia Society?
- 3. What hooked you on growing Camellias?
- 4. Are you a grower of "unprotected" Camellias?
- 5. Are you a grower of "protected" Camellias?

- 6. If you now grow only unprotected flowers, are you planning to build a greenhouse in the future?
- 7. Do you help with your local Camellia show?
- 8. Do you exhibit blooms in Camellia shows?
- 9. What is the average number of Camellia shows you attend each Camellia season?
- 10. Have you ever exhibited a Camellia bloom that made the head table or court of honor?
- 11. Have you discovered any "secrets" that you will share that might help others with Camellia growing? If so, please share with us.
- Please list the brand or generic names of fertilizers you use. Tell "contents," list your time schedule and tell amounts used.
- 13. Do you have your own water well? If not, what is your source of water?
- 14. Do you have an automatic watering system? Please describe it, give brand (if any) types of nozzles you use, whether drip, overhead, etc. If timer is used, what are the settings.
- If you grow unprotected, describe your soil and tell what amendments you use when planting a Camellia.
- 16. Unprotected growers-Do you water plants when blooming to protect show blooms? How? And how often?
- 17. If you are a greenhouse grower, describe your watering system. How often do you water? How and how often do you flush salts from containers?
- 18. Do you gib blooms? What strength of gib do you use. From where do you obtain your gib. Do you use the usual method of twisting out a growth bud and putting in gib? Do you gib more than once? Do you apply gib at a place other than the "cup?" How often do you gib? When do you start gibbing?
- 19. If you grow Camellias in a greenhouse:
  - a. How do you supply humidity?
  - b. How often do you repot?
  - c. Do you top dress or lift plants from containers and add soil below roots each year?
  - d. How often and when do you prune?
  - e. Do you prune roots?
  - f. Do you treat Reticulatas different from Camellias in watering? Fertilizing? Pruning?
- 20. What are your ten favorite Camellia family varieties?
- 21. Do you grow seedlings?
- 22. Do you graft?
- 23. Do you air layer?
- 24. Do you share plants with others?
- 25. Do you share blooms with others at public places such as Churches, stores, or banks?

- 26. Name the brand names of sprays, insecticides, foggers, you use and tell when or in what circumstances do you use them.
- 27. What type of educational program would you want to attend at an ACCS meeting?
- 28. Do you have an area of expertise on which you speak at meetings?
- What do you want to read or see in Atlantic Coast Camellias? Check all that apply.
  - a. Camellia pictures.
  - b. People pictures
  - Camellia and related species topic such as propagating, pruning, packing for shows.
  - d. Show reports
  - e. Show schedules
  - f. Poetry
  - g. Humor
  - h. Other (please name)
- 30. Would you write an article for Atlantic Coast Camellias? If yes, name subject and approximately the month you can send the finished product to the editor.
- 31. Would you send a poem or other art concerning Camellias for publication?
- 32. What suggestions do you have that might improve Camellia shows?
- 33. What suggestions do you have that might improve local meetings?
- 34. What suggestions do you have that might improve ACCS and its Myrtle Beach Convention?
- 35. Name any public gardens or botanical gardens in your city of state—whether or not these gardens use Camellias in the landscape—what time of year is the best to visit them? (Please include a commercial brochure if one is available.)
- 36. Please list any nurseries or an individual that you know about who sells Camellias (regardless of location). Also, mention the approximate number of varieties they sell.
- 37. Name any commercial source(s) you know of who sells under stock for grafting purposes.
- Tell me what questions I missed. Perhaps we can get answers to them at Myrtle Beach.

It would be wonderful to have 100% cooperation with this questionnaire. You have until the meeting in Myrtle Beach to fill up your pad. I would suggest that you use a page per number so you can jot down things as you remember them. Thank you all for your cooperation.

### Show reports

#### Gainesville Camellia Society January 3-4, 2004

Unprotected, Japonica, untreated

L/VL Mrs. D.W. Davis Descanso Louis & Joanne Raska M/L Veiled Beauty Jay & Debbie Ellis Min/S/M Kiku-Toji John Shirah

Japonica, treated

VL Carter's Sunburst Eileen Hart

M/L Nuccio's Gem Mr. & Mrs. James Brogden

Min/S/M Little Babe, Var. Eileen Hart

Reticulata, untreated

Any size Hall's Pride, Var. Jay & Debbie Ellis

Reticulata, treated

VL Hall's Pride, Var. Bob & Gail Reese S/M/L Pete Galli, Var. Bob & Gail Reese

Non-Reticulata, untreated

Any size Buttons 'n Bows Ben George

Non-Reticulata, treated

VL Ailsa James Louis & Joanne Raska

S/M/L Julia Ben George

Best White Mary Alice Cox Louis & Joanne Raska

Sasanqua & related species

Star Above Star Jay & Debbie Ellis
Novice Pink Perfection Christina Crawford

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate Louis & Joanne Raska

Protected, Japonica

L/VL Show Time James & Elaine Smelley S/M Grand Marshall, Var. James & Elaine Smelley

Reticulata

VL Pleasant Memories Steve & Gayle Lawrence S/M/L Dr. Clifford Parks Steve & Gayle Lawrence

Non-Reticulata

VL Mona Jury James & Elaine Smelley
S/M/L Debbie, Var. Steve & Gayle Lawrence
Best White Charlie Bettes James & Elaine Smelley
Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate James & Elaine Smelley

Gainesville Camellia Society Member Gold Certificate - Chuck Ritter

#### Charlotte Camellia Society February 7-8, 2004

Japonica, unprotected

Mary Fischer Brenda & Miles Beach L Runner-up Edna Bass, Var. Brenda & Miles Beach Cherries Jubilee Brenda & Miles Beach M M Runner-up Brenda & Miles Beach Dixie Knight, Var. Brenda & Miles Beach Les Marbury Novice Sarah Cantey Patrick Bostick, Jr.

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate Silver Certificate

Japonica, protected

L Elegans Supreme, Var. Show Time L Runner-up Guest Star M M Runner-up Ville de Nantes Grace Albritton Min. Sweet Jane Fircone, Var. Runner-up Reticulata Hall's Pride, Var. Runner-up Dr. Dan Nathan Supreme

Silver Certificate

Non-Reticulata Mona Jury Best White Melissa Anne Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate

Brenda & Miles Beach Tom & Lorraine Mitchum

Clara & Fred Hahn Clara & Fred Hahn Ann & Mack McKinnon Clara & Fred Hahn Mildred & Bill Robertson Richard & Katherine Mims Brenda & Miles Beach Ann & Mack McKinnon Richard & Katherine Mims Richard & Katherine Mims

Clara & Fred Hahn

Richard & Katherine Mims

Clara & Fred Hahn

#### Mid-Carolina Camellia Society February 14-15, 2004

Japonica, unprotected

VL Edna Bass, Var. Miles & Brenda Beach L Bobby Fain, Var. Ed & Lou Powers L runner-up Alabama Tide M Dixie Knight, Var. M runner-up Magic City Rupert Drews Tammia Ed & Lou Powers Willard Scott S runner-up Rupert Drews Min. Fircone Min. runner-up Mini-Pink Frank Houser Reticulata Hybrid Dr. Zhivago

Best White Nuccio's Gem Best Bloom by Novice Lady Van Sittart Sport

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate Silver Certificate

Japonica, protected

VL Katie

L Tomorrow Park Hill, Fimb. L runner-up Carter's Sunburst, Var.

M Elaine's Betty Cherries Jubilee M runner-up

Red Hots

Black & Gold, Var. S runner-up Frank Houser, Var. Reticulata Hybrid Coral Delight Hybrid runner-up Rose Bouquet Best White Charlie Bettes

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate

Silver Certificate

Miles & Brenda Beach Miles & Brenda Beach

Miles & Brenda Beach Lew & Annabelle Fetterman Miles & Brenda Beach Miles & Brenda Beach Miles & Brenda Beach Nancy K. Doolittle Frank Galloway

Miles & Brenda Beach

Mack & Ann McKinnon Richard & Katherine Mims Bill & Mildred Robertson Richard & Katherine Mims Bill & Mildred Robertson Richard & Katherine Mims Richard & Katherine Mims Bill & Mildred Robertson Lew & Annabelle Fetterman Richard & Katherine Mims

Julia Leisenring

Richard & Katherine Mims Bill & Mildred Robertson

#### North Georgia Camellia Society February 21-22, 2004

Japonica, unprotected Outside Metro Atlanta

L/VL Lucy Stewart Louis & Joanne Raska

M Black Magic Louis & Joanne Raska

S Black Gold Howard & Mary Rhodes

Metro Atlanta

Best Governor Mouton Jim Pruckler
Runner-Up Barbara Morgan Kim Collinson
Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate Louis & John Raska
Silver Certificate Chuck & Bey Ritter

Japonica, protected

L/VL Tomorrow's Dawn Richard & Katherine Mims
L Veiled Beauty John Newsome
M Nuccio's Jewel Richard & Katherine Mims
S Ruby Matthews Cheryl & Warren Thompson
Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate James & Elaine Smelley

Silver Certificate Silver Certificate Silver Certificate Richard & Katherine Mims

Overall Best White

Best Ret./Ret. Hybrid Linda Carol James & Elaine Smelley
Runner-up Phillip Mandarich James & Elaine Smelley

Best Non-Ret, Hybrid Pink Dahlia John Newsome

Swan Lake

Best Min. Bon Bon Steve & Gayle Lawrence

Runner-up Fircone John Newsome

Best Tray of 3 Jap., same variety

Veiled Beauty John Newsome

Frank Jamison

Best Tray of 3 Ret., same variety

Valentine Day, Var. John Newsome

Best Tray of 5 - 2 or more varieties, any species

Assorted Bill & Mildred Robertson

Novice Bob Hope Willie Mae McDaniel

Best Seedling PC-2 Richard & Katherine Mims

#### Tidewater Camellia Society, Wilmington, NC February 28-29, 2004

Japonicas, unprotected

L Helen Bower Brenda & Miles Beach M Ville De Nantes Tom & Lorraine Mitchum S Tammia Brenda & Miles Beach Min. Fircone Brenda & Miles Beach Ret. Frank Houser, Var. Brenda & Miles Beach Non-Ret. Dr. Zhivago Brenda & Miles Beach Best White Melissa Anne Brenda & Miles Beach Best Novice Bloom Betty Sheffield, Var. E. W. Fredrickson

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate

Silver Certificate

Frank Galloway Brenda & Miles Beach

Bill & Mildred Robertson

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

Bill & Mildred Robertson

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

Richard & Katherine Mims

Brenda & Miles Beach Brenda & Miles Beach

Brenda & Miles Beach

Frank Galloway

Richard & Katherine Mims

Richard & Katherine Mims

Richard & Katherine Mims

Japonica, protected

Dick Hardison L M Magic City S Red Hots Min. Pearl's Pet Frank Houser, Var. Ret. Julia Var. Non-Ret.

Melissa Anne Best White Best Seedling PC-2

Tray of 3 same variety Carter's Sunburst, Blush Tray of 5 diff. varieties Carter's Sunburst, Frank

Houser, Hall's Pride. Snowman, Tomorrow

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate

Silver Certificate Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black Special Award: Member of the Tidewater Camellia Club:

> Betty Sheffield Supreme Bill Wilcox

#### Favetteville Camellia Club March 6-7, 2004

Japonicas, unprotected

L Royal Velvet, Var. Frank Galloway L runner-up Katie, Var. Bill & Molly Howell Helen Bower Brenda & Miles Beach M S Little Babe, Var. G.M. Serpas

Min. Fircone Ret. John Hall, Var. Non-Ret. Water Lilv

Best Large Local Pink Empress Lucy Riddle Best Medium Local Ville De Nantes Glenn Capps Best Small Local Lucy Riddle Kittv

Bill & Molly Howell Tray of 3 same variety Dixie Knight Supreme Maroon & Gold Best Novice Ken Sessoms

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate

Japonica, protected

L Lady Laura Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black M Elaine's Betty Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black S Les Marbury Bill & Mildred Robertson Min. Pearl's Pet Richard & Katherine Mims Ret Linda Carol Clara & Fred Hahn Best White Clara & Fred Hahn Melissa Anne Tray of 3 same variety Pleasant Memories Lawanda Brogden Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

Tray of 5 diff. varieties Tomorrow's Dawn, Frank

Houser, Hall's Pride. Tomorrow, Swan Lake

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate

Richard & Katherine Mims Silver Certificate Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

#### Virginia Camellia Society March 20, 2004

J.A. Henkel

Mr. P.J. Johnston

Clay Foreman

C.L. Sutherland Mr. & Mrs. Ed Powers

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Powers

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Powers

Capt. & Mrs. Doug Simon

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Daudt

Sandy Black

Jai	ponica.	Uni	protected

L Ville de Nantes Jack Midgett L runner-up Grand Slam Dr. T.W. Gouldin M Margaret Davis Mr. & Mrs. Ed Powers M runner-up Nuccio's Gem Capt. & Mrs. Doug Simon S Grace Albritton Capt. & Mrs. Doug Simon S runner-up Maroon & Gold Mr. & Mrs. Ed Powers

Min. Fircone Min. runner-up Fleurette Best Novice Bloom Grand Prix

Tray of Three

Tray of Three runner-up

Tray of Five Tray of Five runner-up

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate

Silver Certificate

Japonica, Protected

L Lady Laura Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black L runner-up Guilio Nuccio, Var. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black M Margaret Davis Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black M runner-up Elaine's Betty Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black Grace Albritton Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black S runner-up Tom Thumb Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black Tray of Three Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

Trav of Five

Tray of Five runner-up

Reticulata Frank Houser, Var. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black runner-up Francie L Robert Ward Hybrid Pink Dahlia Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black Charlean, Var. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black runner-up Best White Bloom Swan Lake Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black

Seedlings

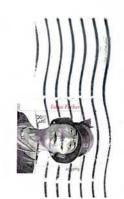
L Blanchards #105 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black M Mabel's #411 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black S DMS 500 Capt. & Mrs. Doug Simon Min. DMS 333 Capt. & Mrs. Doug Simon



# ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY Richard C Mims Editor

Richard C. Mims, Editor 409 Groves St. Lugoff, SC 29078





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