

Carolina Camellias AND *Atlantic Coast Camellias*



Courtyard at "Eryldene", N.S.W. Australia
Home of the late Professor E.G. Waterhouse

MY CAMELLIA PATCH IN SOUTH ARKANSAS

Carl R. Amason

Here in south Arkansas, in the upper parts of U.S.D.A. Zone 8, I try to grow a wide variety of hardy plants. I have some remarkable successes but, perhaps, many more "remarkable failures." Almost all of my horticultural plantings are scattered among second growth pine trees which are becoming log size. For those who do not understand the above timberman's descriptions, the area was worn out cotton fields about fifty years ago, and the first trees to invade old fields are the pines, **Pinus taeda** and **Pinus echinata**. This happened in the early 1930s, and now these pines are 12 to 18 inches in diameter, with straight trunks to heights of 70 to 80 feet and crowns only in the upper third of their heights. The soil is sandy loam, fairly typical of the western Gulf Coastal plains. Rainfall varies from about 30 inches in drier years to 60 inches in wetter years, with most of it falling in winter and spring. Winter lows are about 10 to 15 degrees F, but the years of 1981 and 1983 were not normal. The low in December 1983 was slightly above zero degrees F for several nights with highs about 32 degrees F, and hard freezes were experienced every day for two weeks. For most part, the native flora was little hurt, but the exotic garden plants were badly damaged. Gardenias, camellias, pittosporums, southern indica azaleas and surprisingly the Satsuki azaleas were heavily damaged.

The camellias planted in my country pine forest, in full shade, came through in much better

Callon, Arkansas

condition than those planted in town, where they got some sun. There is one thing for certain, the best growing sites for camellias in the upper parts of zone 8 is in constant shade, summer, fall, winter and spring. A pine grove gives that shade. There must be at least three hundred camellias on my place, and I had all gradations of damage. Even the old plants of **C. hiemalis**, 'Shishi-Gashira', came through with minimum twig and flower bud damage. Some small **C. sasanquas**, newly set out, were killed outright. Most still have a few

Con't. on Page 28

FOR SALE

American Camellia Society Yearbooks, 1949 to present. Prices are as follows: 1949-1959, \$15.00 each; 1960-1969, \$10.00 each; 1970-1983, \$5.00 each. Contact the editor of this publication for additional information. checks will be made out to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.

ABOUT THE COVER DRAWING

This is a drawing of the courtyard at "Eryldene," the home of the late Professor E.G. Waterhouse. He died in August 1977 at the age of 96. The courtyard is planted in camellias and potted azaleas. "Eryldene" and the camellia garden there has for many years been a mecca for camellia lovers in Australia and for camellia enthusiasts who visit Australia from all over the world.

Carolina Camellias

AND

Atlantic Coast Camellias

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by the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

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Editor's Page



I guess you have noticed that there is something different about this magazine. Don't be alarmed. There have been some changes, but generally speaking, the magazine remains the same: the same editor, the same sort of articles, many of the same contributors. We have tried not to make the change too dramatic, even keeping the same name, "Carolina Camellias," at least for this issue. Actually, that name is misleading. The magazine does not represent the Carolinas any more than it represents any other state on the Atlantic Coast. So look for a change soon, probably, "Atlantic Coast Camellias."

Now, let me address some specific groups of people for a moment. First, I'd like to remind you who were members of North Carolina camellia Society, that you need to join Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, now that NCCS has ceased to exist. This copy of Carolina Camellia that you are reading, is a gift of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. You will not be billed for it. But, in order to receive the magazine, you **must** join ACCS. Please do so right away. As editor, I do not want to lose a single reader,

especially any member from my own state. Please!

Members of Virginia Camellia Society also need to join Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in order to receive the magazine. The cost of membership in ACCS is only \$9.00 for a couple. You were paying \$6.00 annually for your copies of Carolina Camellias, so it would be only \$3.00 more. And even if Atlantic Coast would continue to sell the magazine, it would have to raise the price to \$3.00 a copy or more, as the actual, documented, cost of printing and mailing the magazine is at least \$3.00 a copy.

There is only one other comparable magazine being published in this country dedicated solely to camellias. You don't want publication of this magazine to cease, do you? In order to continue to be published, we must have subscribers. That means that we must have new members in Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. So if you love camellias, join ACCS! Do it right now! If you want a change in the magazine, write the editor and tell him what you would like to see included or discontinued. He is anxious to please YOU!

LAUREL LAKE NURSERY DEVASTATED

As these photographs show, the tornados which struck the two Carolinas in March 1984 completely devastated Laurel Lake Nursery. The owner estimates the damage in the millions of dollars. Laurel Lake used to be the Mecca for camellia lovers in the East. And it will be again! With a spirit reminiscent of Mr. and Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Jane

Price, their daughter, says: "We will install artificial shade and continue. In fact, we might be more into camellias than we have been in recent years." Scott Price, the Howard's grandson, is manager now. So spread the word, Laurel Lake might not have any pine trees for awhile, but they have camellias - and a lot more!





Message

from Our President

Dear Members and friends:

We have accepted the challenge and are pleased to bring you the first issue of CAROLINA CAMELLIAS by the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. We wanted it to be an exceptionally good one and we hope you enjoy all the articles.

The South Carolina Camellia Society has been responsible for bringing CAROLINA CAMELLIAS to all of us over the years and we congratulate them on an excellent job well done. At their meeting on May 5, they voted to merge with us and turn their assets over to ACCS with the understanding that we continue with CAROLINA CAMELLIAS. CAROLINA CAMELLIAS is a one-of-a-kind publication, a classic. It's a source of information for camellia culture and camellia happenings, original poems, humor here and there, and Jim McCoy's art and articles. It has been the tie that has kept us all together.

We hope to be able to continue the publication for many more years. It is not an easy task and will take a vital organization with a dynamic leadership to carry out these ambitious plans. I think we have that leadership and we need your support - new members, fresh new articles for each issue, and as well as renewed enthusiasm for camellias.

Program plans for our Fifth Annual Meeting on October 5 & 6 at Myrtle Beach were finalized in Atlanta where the Board met recently. It's going to be an outstanding meeting and we hope you are planning to join in the festivities. See schedule of activities printed elsewhere.

Get your imagination working on a costume (or lack of it) for the Shipwreck Party Friday evening at 5 p.m. Elliott Brogden says we have some interesting prizes for the most unusual get-ups. I'm having trouble coming up with something original - only thing that comes to mind is to wear pajamas and go as a hobo. I've got to come up with an idea for Lew. Maybe he can come barefoot wrapped in a big towel like he just came out of the shower. Hope participation is even better this year.

Our program after brunch Saturday morning will be informative, interesting and entertaining. We have a panel of experts who will talk on a variety of subjects:

- (1) Betty Hotchkiss, Massee Lane horticulturist, will tell us what she has been doing and her plans for the future at ACS headquarters.
- (2) Dr. Herbert Racoff from Columbia, South Carolina will bring us the latest information on gibberelic acid, etc.

- (3) Dot Copeland, Jackson, Mississippi, on cutting those beautiful blooms and transporting them to shows in perfect condition.
- (4) Donna and Bill Shepherd, North Charleston, South Carolina, will show us how they make those lovely paper camellias that are so popular. There will be time to ask questions of these experts.

We have been promised a bountiful Seafood Spectacular for our banquet Saturday night. After a short program, we will have our plant auction and raffle with the prize being a beautiful Ann Hackney camellia painting.

Our officers and directors have been asked to bring plants for our auction. The severe weather during the winter caused many to lose plants so we are asking that anyone who has an extra plant or graft (maybe a hot new one) bring it along to the auction.

Plan to come. We'll have a great time. Send in your reservation today to Holiday Inn, 1200 N. Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC along with a \$30 deposit for one night's reservation.

This has been an eventful spring for Lew and me. Our daughter, Molly, was married on our anniversary, April 3. She is now Mrs. Louis Held, Jr. Our son, Lew, Jr., and his wife, Joni Fay, are the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl born May 14. You may remember this couple as clowns at the Halloween Party. Many of you met these two couples at the Myrtle Beach annual meeting last fall when they attended with us.

We hope your camellias have been growing well and are beginning to set buds. Our plants look good under the slat house. We had right much leaf burn and lost some plants last year from the strong sun that shone in around the sides. We have small pines planted, but they are not large enough to give shade. Lew has built some shade panels to cut the sun from the sides, so we think our plants will do better now. Take good care of your plants this summer for good blooms this fall - keep them watered.

We have received information from Milton Brown at headquarters that ACS Gib will be available this fall. You will be able to purchase liquid which is ready to use or powder which you mix yourself. We all need to gib for fall blooms so keep this excellent source in mind.

Annabelle Fetterman, President, ACCS

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following are excerpts from a letter from a camellia lover in Syracuse, NY. He is not a greenhouse grower, either! "I enjoy distributing cut blooms to my friends, most of whom do not even know what a camellia is. The plants have wintered very well this year, and all should bloom. Of all the experiences I have had in the nursery trade, I find the experiences

with camellias the most rewarding. --- it is my definite opinion that camellia japonica should be grown all over the humid belt of the USA, at least as far north as lower Michigan; lower Ontario; central, western and southern NY; all of lower New England and coastal New Hampshire and Maine.

Bob Klaben, Syracuse, NY

A COMPARISON OF THE GRAFTING CAPABILITY OF TERMINAL SCIONS AND LATERAL SCIONS OF *CAMELLIA JAPONICA* WHEN GRAFTED ONTO *C. SASANQUA* STOCK

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

Camellia spp. are frequently grafted either onto *C. sasanqua* for root rot control or onto *C. oleifera* for cold hardiness. When grafting, one wants to use the best scion available of the preferred *C. japonica* cultivar. In an earlier paper (1) we reported that grafting scions of *C. japonica* 'Rev. John G. Drayton' onto *C. sasanqua* stock was equally effective when scions with one, two, or three leaves were used. All of these scions had the terminal bud intact. This paper compares the results from scions with terminal buds and scions with lateral buds of *C. japonica* grafted onto *C. sasanqua* under greenhouse conditions. The stock plants were grown in the greenhouse from seed, while the scions of 12 *C. japonica* cultivars were purchased from Nuccio's Nurseries, 3555 Chaney Trail, Altadena, California 91001. Western scions were used because the climatic factors in that area (low humidity and low rainfall) do not favor the fungus, *Glomerella cingulata*, responsible for dieback. The grafts were made 26 January, 1984, in a greenhouse maintained at minimum 70°F (21°C) and data were taken 3 April 1984. The grafts were made as described in *Camellia Journal*, November 1983, especially

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²Professor, Ag Science Assistant, and Ag Science Associate, respectively, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631

Fig. 2 (2). The scions were soaked in a benomyl suspension for at least 30 minutes before grafting.

Thirty-three terminal scions grew from 36 grafts (Table 1). This difference is not considered to be significant because some of the lateral scions had only immature buds while all the terminal scions had at least one mature bud. The cultivars Clarise Carlton var., Emmett Barnes and Katie showed some difference between the "terminal scions" and the "lateral scions" (Figs. 1 and 2); but generally speaking, there seemed to be little difference as long as the lateral scion had one or more mature vegetative buds. It is possible that some *C. japonica* cultivars graft easier than others. For example, the cultivars Show Time, Silver Triumph, Lulu Belle, Sunset Glory, Jeffrey Hood, and Kickoff all grafted perfectly. From this initial study we tentatively conclude that a lateral scion is as suitable as a terminal scion as long as there is at least one mature vegetative bud on the lateral scion. Another similar study is currently in progress.

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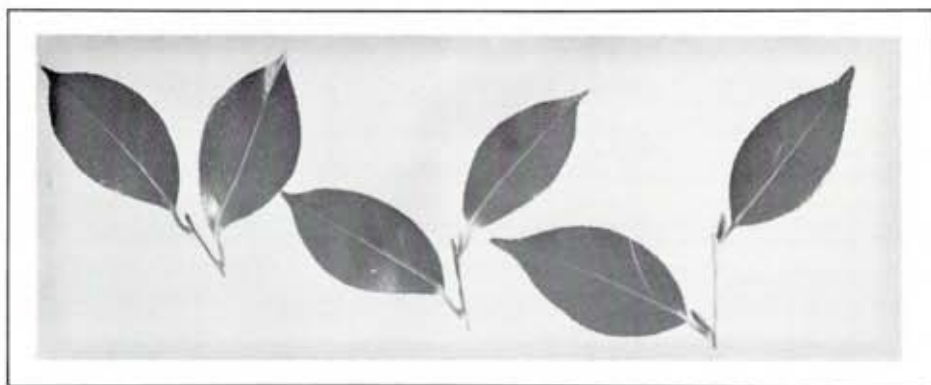
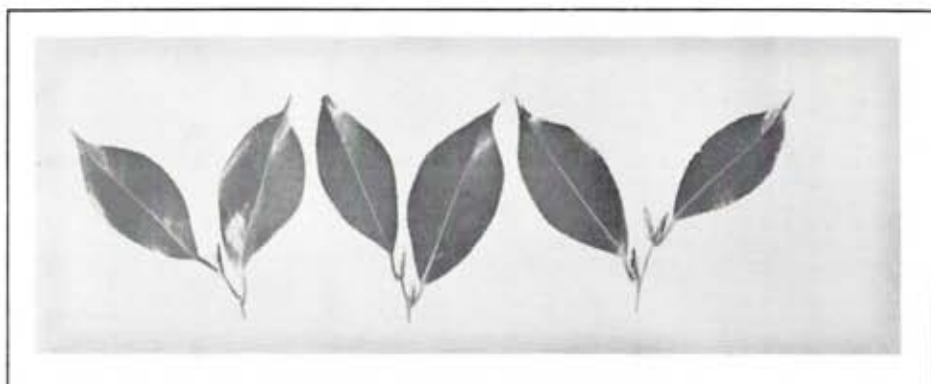
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Table 1. A comparison of terminal vegetative scions and lateral vegetative scions of **Camellia japonica** when grafted onto **C. sasanqua** stock. Grafted 26 January 1984 from scions with Nuccio's of California.

C. japonica cultivar	Terminal scions	Lateral scions
Clarise Carlton, Var.	2/3*	1/3**
Emmett Barnes	2/3	0/3
Jeffrey Hood	3/3	3/3
Katie	3/3	1/3
Kickoff	3/3	3/3
Lulu Belle	3/3	3/3
Pink Pagoda	2/3	3/3
Show Time	3/3	3/3
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	33/36	27/36

*Denominator indicates attempts; numerator gives number successful.

**Some of the lateral scions did not have mature vegetative buds at time of grafting; all terminal scions had one or more mature vegetative buds at the time of grafting



Thanks are extended to Mr. Jim Martin, photographer, and to Drs. O.J. Dickerson and W.M. Epps for reviewing the manuscript.

LETTER FROM COASTAL CAROLINA

Editor's note: The following are excerpts from a letter I received on or about 15 April 1984. This is the first letter I had ever received from this camellia grower. It is so full of interesting information and comments till it reads like an article in a camellia publication. Thought you would enjoy it too. The writer is Parker E. Connor, Jr., Edisto Island, SC.

Where is there a camellia show?

You can see that I am thinking and wishing there would be a show where I could display a beautiful miniature which I cut this morning. It is now in a small vase in the middle of the table. 'Shuchuka' - it is a winner! I guess the reason it just bloomed is that the plant was planted in February, bare rooted, from Nuccio's.

After Christmas day with the 10 degree reading, I did not expect any flowers before October 1984! To my surprise, some of the recognized cold hardy types came through. 'Miss Aiken,' Miss Aiken, Var.', 'boutonniere', 'Paulette Goddard', 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Grandiflora Rosea', and 'Governor Mouton' produced many good quality blooms. 'Allison Leigh Woodruff', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Wall Street Red', and 'Jessie Burgess' also produced blue ribbon flowers. I probably had another 40 plants produce flowers which were not up to normal quality. There are approximately 319 different camellias in my outdoor garden.

I did not prune early so I could wait and see what would happen this spring. Some plants that lost all their leaves are now sending out new leaves. Some plants were lost. I am pleased that new leaves are out on many of the plants that I thought were dead - even some plants that lost all their leaves. Those that died were sick with

dieback or were some that I had mistreated. For example I overdid the Di-Syston on some recently bare rooted plants which developed a corky scab on their leaves. The cold weather finished off some of these. Some of my larger plants were damaged by the cold. Those include 'Gulio Nuccio, Var.', 'Vulcan', 'Debutante', 'Easter Morn', and 'Daikagura'. All of these will lose some branches. The majority of my plants only suffered bud and leaf damage.

Last year I had a problem with pine mice eating the roots of camellias. I lost eight plants and had others damaged. The mice were using mole runs to move underground. I could not find a good solution to this problem as poison might endanger my English Setters. The dogs have free run of the garden and they catch a few moles. This year, I am using castor bean meal as my fertilizer in the hope that the smell will run the moles out of the garden. Will have to wait and see what the results are.

Speaking of one camellia, I throw out a challenge to see if anybody can find a camellia tree as large as this one. I have one in my yard that measures 62 inches around the trunk about 15 inches above the ground. This tree was probably planted in the 1830s. The house was completed in 1828. Civil war photographs show the tree as quite large even then. The flowers are rather pitiful in that they are small single reds. The old tree has much evidence of die-back but does not have scale.

Editor's note: If any reader has a camellia tree that is this size or larger, let us know.

SHOW RESULTS

AIKEN, CAMELLIA CLUB

Aiken, SC

January 21-22, 1984

Best Bloom in Show: 'Guilio Nuccio Var', S.H. Hackney.

Best Bloom Protected:

Large to very large: 'Elegans Splendor', C.T. Freeman.

Medium to small: 'Margaret Davis', Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Rish.

Best White Japonica: 'Charlie Bettes', Mrs. Alfred Bissell.

Best Seedling: Exhibited by Dr. Walter Homeyer.

Best Retic or Retic Hybrid: 'Dr. Clifford Parks', Mrs. J.C. Bickley.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Mona Jury', Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Best Miniature: 'Tammia', Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw.

Collection of 3 Alike: 'Fircone', Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Jernigan.

Collection of 5 Different: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Sweepstakes Protected: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Arrangements:

Tricolor: Vera Kinney.

Creativity: Pat Chismor.

Number of Blooms: 762

Show Chairman: James Holden

COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Charleston, SC

January 28, 1984

Best Bloom Grown in Open: 'Eleanor of Fair Oaks', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Best Bloom Protected: 'Elegans Splendor', C.T. Freeman.

Runner Up: 'Silver Chalice', Joe Austin.

Best Seedling: 'Tiger Paws', Mrs. W. Laughlin.

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

Best Reticulata Protected: 'Lillette Witman, Var.', Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Racoff.

Best 'Miss Charleston' Protected: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Best White Bloom Protected: 'Nuccio's Gem', Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw.

Sweepstakes Grown in Open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Sweepstakes Grown Protected: Joe Austin.

Runner Up: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Court of Honor, Protected:

'Tiffany'

'Al Gunn'

'Betty Sheffield, Sup.'

'Betty Sheffield Blush, Sup.'

'Mona Jury'

'Rena Swick'

Number of Blooms: 472

Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Hendrix

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn, Jr.

Joe Austin.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.

Show Chairman: Al Ewan

CHARLOTTE CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Charlotte, NC

February 4, 1984

Best Bloom Grown in Open (Novice): 'Magnoliaeflora', Rev. John Staton.

Best Blooms Grown Protected:

2½ to 5 inches: 'Nuccio's Jewel', Mildred & Bill Robertson.

Runner-Up: 'Feathery Touch', Mrs. Sadie Aycock.

5 inches and over: 'Elegans Champagne', Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Runner-Up: 'Elegans Supreme', Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Best Miniature: 'Tammia', Scott Coble.

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

Best Reticulata or Retic-Hybrid 2½ to 5 inches: 'Rob Roy', John Newsome.

Best Reticulata 5 inches and over: 'Aztec', Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Runner-Up: 'Robert's Jewel', Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Dream Boat', John Terry.

Best Seedling: Exhibited by Clara and Fred Hahn.

Best White: 'Silver Clouds', Doris and Robert Fowler.

Sweepstakes, Protected: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Runner-Up: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Number of Blooms: 772

Show Chairman: Fred Hahn

MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Columbia, SC

February 11-12, 1984

Grown in Open:

Best Bloom under 4½ inches: 'Magnoliaeflora', Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Grown Protected:

Best Bloom over 5 inches: 'Tomorrow's Tropic Dawn', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Runner-Up: 'Margaret Davis', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Best Bloom under 5 inches: 'Sea Foam', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Runner-Up: 'Spring Sonnett', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Best White Japonica: 'Silver Chalice', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

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

Best Reticulata or Retic-Hybrid: 'Mouchang', Mrs. Sadie Aycock.

Runner-Up: 'Dr. Clifford Parks, Var.', Doris & Robert Fowler.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'El Dorado', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Runner-Up: 'Rose Bouquet', Joe Austin.

Best Seedling: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Best Bloom Exhibited by a Novice: 'Grand Prix', Col. George Wise.

Court of Honor:

'Ballet Dancer', Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hendrix.

'Cotton Tail', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

'Elegans Splendor', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

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

'Ivory Tower', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

'Jean Pursel', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell.

'Lasca Beauty', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

'Mona Jury', Joe Austin.

'Tali Queen', Joe Austin.

'Terrell Weaver', Joe Austin.

'Tomorrow, Park Hill', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell.

'Tomorrow, Var.', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Number of Blooms: 1050

Show Chairman: Jack Teague

FAYETTEVILLE CAMELLIA CLUB

Fayetteville, NC

March 3-4, 1984

Best Bloom in Show: 'Elegans Splendor', Ray Watson.

Best Japonica Bloom Grown in Open: 'Donckelarii', Bill Watson.

Best Japonica Blooms Grown Protected:

Large to very large: 'Elegans Splendor', Ray Watson.

Medium: 'Nuccio's Gem', Ray Watson.

Small: 'Guest Star', Joe Austin.

Best Reticulata or Retic-Hybrid: 'Curtain Call', Doris & Robert Fowler.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Gay Time', Joe Austin.

Best Miniature: 'Tammia', Elliott Brogdon.

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

Best Collection of 3 Alike, Protected: 'Lasca Beauty', Lester Allen.

Best Collection of 5 Different, Protected: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Watson.

Sweepstakes, Protected: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Court of Honor:

Grown in Open: 'Gullio Nuccio', John Rhea.

Protected:

'Lady Laura', Joe Austin.

'Fashionata', Doris & Robert Fowler.

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

'Lasca Beauty', Lester Allen.

'Howard Asper', Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Holderby.

'Angel Wings', Mr. & Mrs. Harris Newber.

'Mona Jury', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Number of Blooms: 900

Show Chairmen: Joe Austin & James McCoy

MEN'S PIEDMONT CAMELLIA CLUB

Greensboro, NC

March 10, 1984

Best Japonica Grown in Open: 'Donckelarii', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Best Japonica Grown Under Cover:

Over 5 inches: 'Elegans Supreme', Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Holderby.

Runner-Up: 'Tomorrow Park Hill Pink, Var.', Ray Watson.

Under 5 inches: 'Seafoam', J.F. Hankins.

Runner-Up: 'William C. Noel', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

White: 'Seafoam', J.F. Hankins.

Runner-Up: 'Bea Rogers', Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. Hahn.

Best Seedling: No. 52ST, Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Runner-Up: No FM4, Olin W. Owen.

Miniature: 'Mansize', Lena & Harry Watson.

Runner-Up: 'Frances Council', Joe Austin.

Best Reticulata Bloom: 'Curtain Call', Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. Hahn.

Runner-Up: 'Jean Pursel', Joe Austin.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Debbie', Ray Watson.

Runner-Up: 'Pink Dahlia', Joe Austin.

Best Tray of 3:

Grown in Open: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Grown Protected: Lester Allen.

Best Tray of 5:

Grown in Open: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Grown Protected: Lester Allen.

Sweepstakes, Protected: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Runner-Up: Ray Watson.

Number of Blooms: 980

Show Chairman: C.S. Edmiston

TIDEWATER CAMELLIA CLUB

Wilmington, NC

February 25, 1984

Blooms Grown Under Protection:

Best Japonica, under 5 inches: 'In The Pink', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Best Japonica over 5 inches: 'Ville de Nantes', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn, Jr.

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

Best Reticulata or Retic Hybrid: 'Harold Paige', Joe Austin.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Mona Jury, Var.', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn, Jr.

Best Seedling: Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.

Best White Japonica: 'Elegans Champagne', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn, Jr.

Best Tray of Three, Same Variety: Joe Austin.

Best Tray of Five, Different: Bill Watson.

Best Bloom in Show: 'Mona Jury, Var.', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn, Jr.

Sweepstakes: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Runner-Up: Joe Austin.

Court of Honor:

'Anticipation, Var.', Joe Austin.

'Aztec', Joe Austin.

'Curtain Call', Doris & Robert Fowler.

'Eleanor Martin, Sup.', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

'Elegans Splendor', Joe Austin.

'Elegans Supreme, Var.', Joe Austin.

'Grace Albritton, Starfire', Joe Austin.

'Gypsy Rose, Var.', Joe Austin.

'Kewpie Doll', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

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

'Manderlay Queen, Var.', Sadie Aycock.

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

'Massee Lane', Joe Austin.

'Robert's Jewel', Joe Austin.

'Sandy Sue', Joe Austin.

'Silver Cloud', Doris & Robert Fowler.

'Snowman', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn, Jr.

'Vernon Mayo, Var.', Joe Austin.

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

Blooms Grown in Open:

Best Japonica Under 5 inches: 'Ville de Nantes', Bill Watson.

Best Tray of Three, Same Variety: Billie & Bruce Hinson.

Sweepstakes: Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Runner-Up: Dot & John Thomas.

Court of Honor: 'Adolphe Audusson, Var.', Bill Watson.

Number of Blooms: 800

Show Chairman: James H. Farlow

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

October 5 - 6, 1984

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Friday, October 5

- 2:00 - 5:00 - Registration - Holiday Inn
- 3:00 - ACCS Officers and Board of Directors Meeting at Motel
- 5:00 - Till - Shipwreck Party at Motel 'round the Pool
- Buffet of foods furnished by our ladies

Saturday, October 6

- 10:30 - Bloody Mary Party at Myrtle Beach Convention Center
- 11:00 - Brunch hosted by Lew & Annabelle Fetterman
- 11:30 - General Business Meeting and program by panel of experts. Question/answer period to follow.
- Afternoon free
- 7:00 - Seafood Spectacular and drinks at Myrtle Beach Convention Center followed by brief program, plant auction, and raffle for an Ann Hackney camellia painting.

Happy Prospects

Ken Hallstone*

Lafayette, CA

While looking at some slides taken of this year's four show-winning flowers with floral fragrance, I suddenly realized that these seedlings L19(1), M26(2), M46(8) and N25(1) were crossed in 1975, two in 1976 and the last one in 1977. You say so what? I say that is the better part of ten years spent in trying to achieve a goal of show-winning fragrance flowers. Now I have embarked, along with many others on a program to develop show-winning flowers using the yellow miniature species **C. chrysantha**. If this undertaking takes as long as the fragrant program, and I have no reason to believe it won't, I am wondering if I am going to be around for the fruition. Goldsmith put it well when he said: "The hours we spend with **happy prospects in view** are more pleasing than those crowded with fruition." So let me relate this year's **happy prospects** while working toward a yellow show flower.

My camellia **chrysantha** plants did not set buds this year, and all my attempts to secure pollen from this plant at home and abroad did not materialize. While attending the Modesto Camellia Society Show, March 17th, my prayers were answered by Sergio Bracci, the archangel from San Gabriel. He brought two **C. chrysantha** flowers to enter in the show for people to see. Julius Nuccio, who is in charge of Sergio's plant, told him to make sure that Ken Hallstone got one of the two flowers for hybridizing purposes. The flowers were entered,

one in the species section and the other in the yellow section. Each was a winner, the flowers were scrutinized and handled by numerous photographers. Careful observation revealed that the spent flowers had dropped out of the calyx and little if any pollen was to be seen. On Sunday afternoon I went by the show, picked up the promised flower and headed for home with great anticipation.

That very afternoon my observations under my Luxo-Magnifier Lamp revealed that the anthers were split down the middle but showed little or no pollen grains. Experience told me they looked much like the anthers of many of the nearly sterile F1 crosses I have been dealing with in my fragrance program. I followed my own suggestion that I made in an article I wrote in the 'Carolina Camellias', Spring issue No. 2, p. 27, 1976: to ripen pollen warm the anthers under a reading lamp for five minutes or so before trying to use it. After warming the **chrysantha** flower I removed all the anthers and placed them on a 4" x 6" piece of white hard surface paper, and returned them back under the lamp for another five minutes. I then creased the paper the long way so the anthers fell into the trough or crease, then working my fingers lightly along the crease, I rubbed the anthers together much like an old time cigarette smoker "rolling his own." Next I removed

* Member of Northern California Research Committee.

the anthers and placed them on a similar piece of paper and placed them back under the lamp in preparation for a second attempt. Taking the first paper and holding the two ends at the top with the crease down I snapped the sides of the paper with my finger several times to cause any pollen on the sides to slide down into the crease. Taking an open gellatin capsule I ran it up the trough several times to collect the pollen. I repeated this process two times which resulted in a noticeable amount of material. Observation under the magnifying lamp showed possible pollen plus some chaff. Because I had no way of separating the chaff my procedure was to place as much of the material as I could on the stigma in hopes there would be at least one fertile pollen grain, which is all it takes to do the job.

Having collected the so called yellow pollen, what should I cross it on? Dr. Clifford Parks has suggested and I quote "I would like to see it crossed with **C. japonica** - particularly white types with a creamy tendency." Once this interspecific cross has been confirmed, he further states, "then we can make a crossing plan."

The material was applied to 25 flowers directly from the capsule. This technique eliminates loss of pollen which occurs when brushes are used. The procedure is to touch the stigma on the inside of the open capsule and then rotate the capsule in your fingers so the stigma removes the pollen from the sides. Each cross was checked with a hand glass to make sure there was material on the stigma. Each was tagged and bagged and given a happy thought. Among the 25

flowers treated were 'Gwenneth Morey,' 'Brushfield Yellow,' 'Whitman Yellow,' and 'Golden Gate.' None of the above are known for their seed setting qualities so I decided to disregard the color and use my five best seed setting plants, namely 'Lady Vansittart,' 'Peach Blossom,' 'Dear Jenny,' and fragrant seedlings D4(2) and N25(1). Of the four fragrant seedlings I mentioned earlier the best seed setter is N25(1), a large red single flower with Appleblossom fragrance. Naturally I would want to waste some of the so called yellow pollen on it. After all there is nothing wrong with a fragrant yellow flower, is there?

Here is my happy prospect - twenty five crosses using my so called **C. chrysantha** pollen were made during the last two weeks in March. At this writing, May 1st seven of the crosses look good and have formed visable seed pods. There is still the June Drop, an event you fruit growers know, which will undoubtedly eliminate a few. Even if a couple of pods make it I am not home free because the seeds may be empty. Oh well! I am happy I had a chance to be one of the early hybridizers for yellow and fragrance, and as I earlier stated, the hours we spend with **happy prospects in view**, are more pleasing than those of fruition.



Greenhouse Camellia Culture

Fred Hahn

I would like to dedicate this article to "Son" Hackney who has helped so many camellia growers over the years.

For years, my friends have accused me of feeding my camellias Coca-cola. Well, a recent article in our Coca-cola publication told of a lady executive in Atlanta who waters her office plants with warm Coca-cola. Per the article, Sprite and Diet Coke didn't work as well. Let me tell you what I really do:

General:

All of my camellias are grown in containers and when planting a new plant, I place it in the smallest container I can. All are bare rooted. I move up gradually with my largest container being only 5 gallons with some plants 1½ inches in diameter. I move my plants out of the greenhouse in late April, place them in partial shade and return them to the greenhouse in October. My greenhouse is heated with an oil heater and the temperature is controlled manually. I try to hold the temperature at 38 degrees, and when it is real cold, 15 degrees or below, I sometimes even get up in the middle of the night to check the temperature.

Soil Mix:

My soil mix is:
3 parts fine pine bark
1 part sand
½ part soil
½ part loose peat
I never add any fertilizer to my mix and never test it to check its acidity. I have one of the soil testers advertised for \$19.95 and checked a few plants at first. I haven't used it in four or five years, maybe longer.

Matthews, NC

It seems as if I never have enough time to use it, but sooner or later this will probably catch up with me. By the way, this tester was checked with a more expensive tester and checked out O.K.

Pruning:

To me, this is harder to do than any other phase of camellia culture. My greenhouse is 20 x 43 feet, which is crowded with plants of all sizes. I know that it took me at least 18 hours to prune them. I begin pruning after my first plants have finished blooming, around the middle of March. I try to shape the plants while they are young, and prune them so that they have a single trunk. When pruning, I look at the direction the growth buds are growing and then try to leave the growth buds pointing up and not out from the plants or towards the center of the plant. On large plants, I leave only one or two growth buds from last year's growth. If you don't prune this severely, your plants will soon get too big for your greenhouse. Also, I think pruning promotes vigorous growth and healthy plants. Occasionally, you can't get a plant shaped the way you would like, but in containers you can place your plants close together regardless of shape. Prior to placing in the greenhouse, I lightly prune so I can place my plants close together. I always paint all cuts with Treekote (adding Benlate, Captan and water), as this promotes callus and hopefully helps prevent disease.

Fertilizing:

First, let me emphasize I usually close my greenhouse about the first

week in December, depending on the weather, and keep it closed until my plants have finished blooming. I have a humidifier which I set on 55 to 60 percent. Also, I have sawdust on the floor which I wet down by hand occasionally. **Plants should be wet** when you feed them, and during the winter feeding program your **humidity should be kept high**. Below is the schedule which I follow:

For a 5- gallon container:

March - two tablespoons Dixie-Pixie.

May - three tablespoons lime.

June - three tablespoons cottonseed meal.

August - two tablespoons 20 percent super phosphate.

November - four tablespoons fish oil emulsion per gallon of water, then applying one quart to each container.

When it turns cold, I apply one quart of the following every two to three weeks alternately:

1. Three tablespoons blood meal and one tablespoon Peters 20-20-20 per gallon of water.

2. $\frac{1}{4}$ cup ammonium nitrate to five gallons of water.

3. two tablespoons Peters 20-20-20 per gallon of water.

Last year, I missed the lime for the first time in many years. Remember, my soil mix is light. Do not use the above fertilizer program on plants in heavy soil.

Insects and Disease Control

I spray with Cygon in the spring after removing my plants from the greenhouse. When needed, I spray with Isotox for aphids and Kelthane for red spiders. For control of dieback, I mix a thin solution of Benlate and water and paint about

two inches of the trunk on my young grafts and I also paint cankers with this mixture. I also use two teaspoons of Benlate per gallon of water as a soil drench.

Disbudding:

If you are going to have show quality blooms, you have to disbud. Again, this is most difficult. I force myself every year and still feel that I do not remove enough buds. I start early and disbud up to the first of December. We all like to give blooms to friends and even though I disbud a lot, I still have plenty of blooms to give away.

Gibbing and Care of Blooms:

I gib some blooms for the fall shows, however, I start my heavy gibbing about the first week of December. I gib every two weeks until the middle of February.

When cutting blooms during the week before a show, I mix a solution of four teaspoons of sugar to a pint of water. I put this sugar water in orchid tubes and cut my blooms in the morning. I immediately place the blooms on polyester fiber, in an airtight container. I make sure that I have some of this fiber between the petals and leaves. I place the containers in the refrigerator. I do not wire my blooms or spend much time grooming them. I do not have the time.

I feel that this entire program which I follow is needed in growing quality blooms.



Is Our Camellia Renaissance Slipping?

Long Beach, MS

We don't like to admit it, but from our perspective, it does seem that the great surge of camellia popularity which began before, and exploded after World War II and since, has been ebbing in recent years.

Fifteen years ago when our camellia renaissance in the U.S. was riding its peak, I was disappointed to find that Japanese interest in its own native flower was unbelievably low. I reported this in an article titled "Things Camelliawise in Japan" in the 1969 ACS Yearbook.

In an attempt at explanation, Prof. Siro Kitamura, at the time in Kyoto, outlined his cyclical theory of the rise and decline of camellia popularity which shows that during the past few centuries, our favorite flower has been in high favor for about twenty-five years and then eclipsed to virtual neglect for seventy-five years before it rose again. Because I couldn't agree, I reported the professor's ideas facetiously as a second brief article in the 1969 Yearbook titled "Camellia History a la Chart". I hoped that my reports would not be taken as personal criticism by Japan's camellia people, and none apparently were.

But Prof. E.G. Waterhouse, who understood the Japanese situation better than I, sent the suggestion that I should have mentioned the beautiful camellia books being produced in the world's most literate country. Then Yoshiaki Andoh, author of several of these books, sent me copies of them. So,

Charles L. Keeton

impressed as I was, I wrote another "Things Camelliawise in Japan II", published in the 1970 Yearbook. As I kept in touch with these two gentlemen who were doing so much for camellias in far away places, my viewpoint became international as well as only American.

Prof. Waterhouse was unhappy in that period of his "chinju" (an endearing Japanese term meaning 'Age of the Camellia' and also applied to people in their ninth decade) and was determined to do something about bolstering camellia popularity outside the U.S. to a point comparable to our own. Because of his own personal leadership ability, he did reactivate the almost dormant International Camellia Society and got its published yearbook on schedule again. And because of personal respect for this grand old man of the camellia world, many of us became members of IRS along with all the Europeans, Japanese and "Down Under" members.

The new international look of camelliadom in this period, the introduction of many retic hybrids, and the beginnings of the work toward new colors and scents for our blooms moved the popularity of the camellia forward throughout all the world. The hobbyists outside the U.S. became more aware that they had a good foundation to build on as we supplied all plant materials they needed in exchange for their newer varieties and older Higos, etc. They moved forward because they had a long way to go, but we, in spite of our added

American tourist travel to view their camellia progress, began slowly to slip from our high plateau, the plateau to which they aspired.

As collectors, we Americans began to lose a bit of interest when we found out that we literally had "everything", and with our jaded tastes, even the new hybrids took on a look of "sameness". Yes, we began to slip as those fans abroad went forward, not past us, but upward at any rate.

Primarily because we recognized that many of the camellia pioneers were dying off after leading us to the heights, we looked to new leadership and sought new recruits to fill the ranks. Our lack of success proved that the generation gap between us and our children seemed too broad to cross in things camelliawise. Their interests were developing in other fields, and especially in leisure time hobbies. They seemed more fascinated by spectator sports than in working with camellias. This realization came slowly, but it did come! As attrition cut its way into the membership rosters of American camellia clubs without new members to fill the ranks, we sensed no genuine evidence that others would carry on where we must eventually all leave off.

This does not mean that our long love affair with the camellia is finished. It does mean, judging from what seemed obvious in Japan, that the development of the Takeda "herbal garden" and the publication of a book about this collection, plus the beautiful books by Andoh were among the primary factors that triggered the upward move out of their transition period. We can never overlook the clout of moneyed men, show gardens, and enthusiastic

writers in trying to figure out the why and how of cyclical changes. Above all, national publicity galore must keep the reading and viewing public aware of the newsworthiness of the camellia before any forward thrust will be noted.

Not having a crystal ball, I have no idea when we shall get off the current "dead center" of our plateau. We never forget that in our country the social side of camellia showing is important too. Certainly the hobby has enabled thousands of people across the camellia belt to become friends with other nice people of kindred interests. So, the assumed understanding is that these people who are loyal to camellias today will certainly go on with their flowers and friends "til death do us part." We do believe that these dedicated folks and those who have provided reasonably well financially for the permanence of Massee Lane, ACS headquarters. Dave Strother's old garden plus the new display coolhouse under the direction of the recently hired young horticulturist offers Florida (and return) tourists a chance to see what might well be in their future, if that future when it arrives is anything at all like I vision it. Meanwhile, many of our other private gardens will carry on, as will state and federal experiment stations. There will be no slowing down of uptrend developments now in progress to bring new colors and new scents to camellias. There will always be many camellia aficionados!

But what will, or can, ever trigger our forward movement? Probably the answer will lie in "new and different" camellias and,
Con't. on Page 27

The Siberian Express Hits Florida

Dr. Asa Barnes

Following the light winter of 1982-1983, we had a cool wet spring with much more rain fall than usual. Our camellias showed heavy growth with late flower bud set. The blooming season was delayed. Early camellia shows did not have as many entries as usual. The heavy distribution of buds on our plants gave prospect of lots of beautiful blossoms for the spring 1984 shows.

The fall season was warmer than usual without a heavy frost. The camellias continued to show new growth instead of hardening off for the dormant, flowering season. Prospects here looked good for many beautiful flowers to enter in the Central Florida Camellia Show in Orlando, January 13-14. That is, up until December 24th, Christmas Eve.

The TV was turned on for the 6:00 PM local news before settling down for the expected Christmas programs. The weather news came on with the evening forecast, "Expect a hard freeze tonight. Protect pets, pipes and plants." He did not tell us that the temperature would drop from this day's high of 60 degrees F. to 11 degrees F. in Jacksonville. The "Siberian Express" was bearing down from the north, and we would have at least 36 hours of freezing temperatures, the coldest December in the records of the weather bureau. The freeze would reach down into the citrus and vegetable growing areas of central and south Florida!

On Christmas day, we found that the freeze and the 35 mph wind

Fernandina Beach, FL

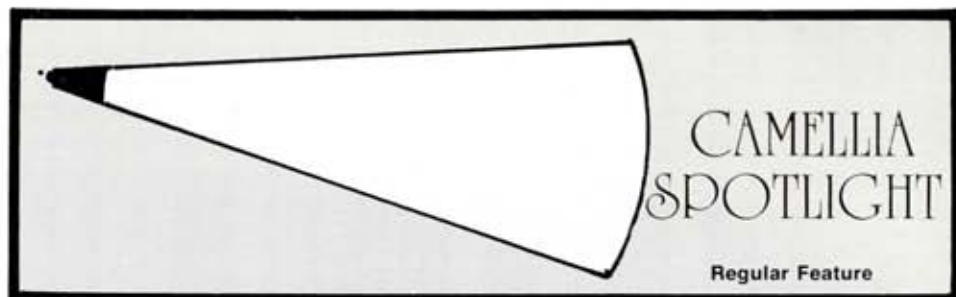
had turned all our camellia blossoms dark brown. Even the tight buds were frozen! There went our prospect for flowers for the late season shows. Now the question was, how much damage had our **plants** suffered? Camellia growers in north-east Florida were in shock! Nothing like this had happened in this area for at least 20 years.

Three weeks later, the weather was still cold. The Camellia Society of Central Florida's show, held in Orlando, had only 12 flowers in the outdoor class. There were only 150 in the protected section. Usually this show will have over 2,000 blooms. Some late shows in Florida are being cancelled.

Those growers in north Florida who grow most of their camellias in pots are reporting heavy damage. Most of my plants are in the ground under oak trees. Of some 200 plants, I find about 5 percent look dead. I had 30 of last year's grafts in one or two gallon containers. Six of them look dead. There were 20 plants, purchased bare rooted from Nuccios' Nursery growing in 3 or 5 gallon containers. Thirteen of them look dead, nine of twelve reticulatas and four of eight japonicas. Small plants, cuttings and seedlings in one gallon pots had heavy losses. Sasanquas seem to take the cold. Twenty four plants in 3 gallon and 5 gallon pots, to be used for root stock, show little freeze damage.

The big question for growers in this area is: "What about next year?" Given a normal growing season, can we expect a normal flowering season? Grafting time is

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Ken Blanchard, Wallace, NC, tells about a seedling of his that bloomed this year and surprised him, if nothing else. He says that it was a very large (he didn't use those words but with his hands formed a circle about 8 or 9 inches in diameter), creamy white, formal double. It bloomed in his greenhouse on an air layer from his seedling patch. It was not gibbed. There was something else about this flower that appealed to Ken, the substance. He says that it was superior. This seedling bears watching as blooms on a first year air-layer are not always typical. But if this bloom turns out to be typical, and if it can be induced to bloom earlier, by use of gib or otherwise, then we may have a spectacular addition to the camellia scene.

A 'Buddah' x fraterna cross from California has caught my attention. I have not seen the bloom, only a photo, but the description is interesting indeed. It has bloomed for four years and will be registered as 'Dr William D. Battle.' Barbara Butler, from Modesto, CA, the originator, says that it blooms from mid-November till March. It is soft, pastel pink with eleven ruffled petals. It is large to very large and does not shatter. The photo I saw showed 5 of the prettiest, most

upright rabbit ears you can imagine. What more could you ask for in a camellia, fragrance?

When 'Tiffany' came out in the early 60s, it was hailed as one of the loveliest camellias that the western world had seen. It is still considered so by many who grow it. But soon after its introduction, the story began to circulate that it was extremely susceptible to dieback. It may be more susceptible than many other cultivars, but many growers don't think so. Julius Nuccio writes: "Our number one pink camellia is 'Tiffany,' also in Australia and New Zealand. We have no trouble whatsoever. People throughout the south tell us that it is weak and suffers from dieback. Not so here." Ray Gentry writes: "A very good grower and a good flower. I still sell plants of 'Tiffany' quite often. It's worth having. It grows best on its own roots." I still have my plant of 'Tiffany' which was grafted on sasanqua stock in 1965. It still produces beautiful flowers, probably show winner quality if I would disbud a little more. But the reason I bring up the subject of 'Tiffany' is this: somebody sent me a scion of a cultivar a couple of years ago which he said was a cross of 'Tiffany' x saluenensis. When it bloomed last season, it was

a gorgeous bloom identical to 'Tiffany,' except that all blooms were anemone form. I changed the tag to read 'Tiffany' but may change it back when and if this cultivar is registered. Although the flower is identical to 'Tiffany' in its best form, the plant does seem to be different. No dieback yet, and much more vigorous than I expected.

Ray Gentry is releasing next season (presumably fall of 1984) an interesting group of Frank Pursel's seedlings. I can't get him to tell me which he thinks are best. He did say that 'Paul Harkey' is "extra good." Here's his list: 'Annabelle Fetterman,' 'Bill LaRose,' 'Dr. Alvin Johnson,' 'Ealon Magee,' 'Gene King,' 'James McCoy,' 'Jean Comber,' 'Judith Toomajian,' 'Paul Harkey,' 'Robert Fowler,' and 'Tom Hoffman.' Go ahead, order one of each!

Our description of that new camellia 'Harvey Short's Finale' in the last issue of Carolina Camellias was not quite right. Sorry! We were

not wrong in recommending it though. Here is a better description: It is a **very large** bloom. It averages 6½ inches in diameter without gib and sometimes gets as large as 8 inches, again without gib. It is a rather full semi-double which can at times be not so full. It is usually quite high and sometimes approaches a loose peony. **Peony form, it is not.** Super large, it is. The texture is very heavy.

Has your club seen the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society program? It is an excellent slide program that you and your camellia friends will enjoy. Beautiful slides of "Show Winners" interspersed with pictures of activities during one of our Myrtle Beach outings. Marion Edwards put the program together for us with printed narration for the person presenting it. He has loaned it to 8 or 9 clubs already. Write him today if your club needs a program. Mr. Marion Edwards, 5603 Darlow Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32211.



SIBERIAN EXPRESS (From Page 19)

almost on us. Can we depend on our root stock, or will it have root damage? What about good scion stock? Certainly our freeze damaged plants cannot be depended on for scions, and we hear that our usual nursery source of scions had similar freeze damage. Should we try to get scions from growers with greenhouse plants that escaped the cold? We will not know just how much damage we have until the

growing season is well along. Should we just forget about his grafting year and allow our root stock an additional year of growth?

We realize that this unusual camellia year is not so unusual for growers in Virginia, North Carolina and other states north of Florida. We need good advice from their experience. We can only hope that the beauty of next year's blossoms will make up for this year's loss.

EVALUATING CAMELLIAS

If you have recently become enamored of camellias as quite a few people have, you might want some guidance as to which varieties of camellias you should acquire for your soon-to-be, magnificent camellia garden. You have visited a few camellia shows and no doubt have a long list of camellias that appeal to you. But you have some misgivings. Will this camellia do well in my garden? Does it have any special requirements? Does it have any defects that I should know about? The best way to find out about a camellia is to have it evaluated by several growers who have grown it. We have selected 21 gorgeous, popular camellias and have asked several growers to comment on them and to evaluate them as garden varieties. Here are their comments.

BETTY SHEFFIELD, SUPREME:

Mobile, AL: An outstanding flower.

Shalimar, FL: Blooms well outside early. Plant cold hardy. Difficult to get plants to hold true.

Melrose, FL: Blooms open dependently, treated or not. Resistant to dieback. Maverick wood should be removed.

Savannah, GA: Has not done well outside. Has tendency to revert to regular 'Betty Sheffield.'

Charleston, SC: Good flower when it blooms true. Have two large plants that bloom all sports. Hardly ever get a good supreme.

Columbia, SC: Beautiful flower. Can't guarantee flower will come true.

Wallace, NC: Good for early fall gibbing outside.

Virginia Beach, VA: One of the best; sometimes reverts to regular 'Betty Sheffield.'

CAMPARI:

Mobile, AL: Good flower. Blooms white and flecked.

Panama City, FL: Most plants produce lots of white flowers but they are not outstanding.

Shalimar, FL: Excellent medium bloom. A show winner. Does best in greenhouse.

Melrose, FL: Treated or untreated produces show quality blooms over a long period of time. Plant is very cold hardy, and is a good grower.

Savannah, GA: One of the best outside. Particularly early.

Charleston, SC: A real good outside flower. Have had some show winners.

Wallace, NC: Excellent when grown protected. No experience growing it outside.

CARTER'S SUNBURST:

Mobile, AL: Whole family is top-notch.

Shalimar, FL: All time favorite. Grows well outside. Blooms hold up well. Has produced excellent sports.

Melrose, FL: Opens well and blooms beautifully in this area.

Savannah, GA: Only fair outside.

Columbia, SC: Holds well. Easy to grow. Consistent winner.

Wallace, NC: Good when grown protected. Not so good outside.

Virginia Beach, VA: Excellent. Takes gibbing well.

DIXIE KNIGHT:

Mobile, AL: I am partial to the variegated form.

Shalimar, FL: Excellent. Variegated form wins more shows. Grows well outside.

Melrose, FL: Prefer the predominately white "special" strain. One of the very best variety for this area.

Savannah, GA: Does well outside, but is no show winner.

Charleston, SC: I have 'Dixie Knight, Var.' which is good. I like its high center. The 11 degree winter weather hurt this plant badly.

Columbia, SC: Variegated form is impressive bloom. Similar to 'Huby Cooper.'

Wallace, NC: Good if grown protected, but not too many top-notch show quality blooms.

Virginia Beach, VA: Old variety. 'Dixie Knight, Supreme' much better flower.

DONCKELARII:

Mobile AL: An old reliable. Does well outside.

Panama City, FL: Very good in some areas. Not so good here.

Shalimar, FL: Old, but still good. Good landscape flower.

Melrose, FL: After almost 200 years of known propagation, this beautiful, cold-hardy japonica is still one of the best.

Savannah, GA: Excellent outside, but falls petal by petal. Difficult to clean up.

Charleston, SC: Good cold-hardy plant. Nice flower.

Columbia, SC: Cold-hardy. A slow grower.

Wallace, NC: One of the most cold-hardy varieties we have. Performs well inside also.

Virginia Beach, VA: Not too good. Flower drops too easily from the stem.

ELEGANS CHAMPAGNE:

Mobile, AL: One of the best whites.

Panama City, FL: Excellent.

Shalimar, FL: One of the best whites. Sometimes difficult to open properly. Grows fast. A show winner.

Melrose, FL: Big, beautiful and hungry. The entire 'Elegans' tribe needs about 50 percent more food to keep them happy.

Charleston, SC: The cold gets mine every year before it blooms. Can't get this one to open early.

Columbia, SC: My honest opinion: the prettiest of all new camellias.

Wallace, NC: A real beauty grown protected. Some problems with bud drop. No experience outside.

ELEGANS SUPREME:

Mobile, AL: A very good bloomer.

Panama City, FL: Excellent!

Shalimar, FL: Excellent flower. Blooms best when planted in the ground. 'Elegans Splendor' better bloom.

Melrose, FL: The highly variegated strain is a real beauty. Grafts on sasanqua stock grow better. Treated buds seem to hang on better than untreated ones.

Savannah, GA: Very good outside. A sure winner.

Charleston, SC: The cold gets mine every year before it blooms. Can't get them to open early.

Columbia, SC: Slow, spreading growth. Petals scatter when bloom falls.

Wallace, NC: Performs well protected. Sometimes difficult to get large size. No experience outside.

Virginia Beach, VA: Beautiful flower but tender. Does not stand up well.

GRAND SLAM:

Mobile, AL: Does not do well for me.

Panama City, FL: Nice yard flower, but does not hold on the plant very long.

Shalimar, FL: Good, big, red flower. Grows well. More popular on west coast.

Melrose, FL: An excellent landscape plant, either solid or variegated. Cold-hardy variety.

Columbia, SC: Large, dark red, semi-double. Cold-hardy.

Wallace, NC: Excellent grown protected. Not too good outside.

GUEST STAR:

Mobile, AL: A very late bloomer.

Melrose, FL: The pink formal bloom always opens well. Good grower. Handsome foliage, and stands lots of cold without damage to plant.

Savannah, GA: Very good outside.

Columbia, SC: Medium formal double. Showy flower.

Wallace, NC: Excellent grown protected. No experience outside. Hard to catch at right time to cut for show.

KICK OFF:

Mobile, AL: Good early bloomer.

Panama City, FL: Nice yard flower. Early.

Shalimar, FL: Excellent early flower, as are its sports 'Touchdown' and 'Cheerleader.'

Savannah, GA: Just fair outside.

Charleston, SC: Have had a few show winners. Good flower, but droops very soon after cutting.

Columbia, SC: Good early outside blooms. Similar to 'Carter's Sunburst.'

KITTY:

Mobile, AL: Good small formal. Does well outside.

Panama City, FL: Nice for some growers. I have had no success with it.

Shalimar, FL: Good white. Also one of the best small flowers. Grows outside well. Cold-hardy.

Melrose, FL: Beautiful small flower. Plant and blooms are very cold-hardy.

Savannah, GA: Very good outside and prolific. One of the best small pink flowers.

Columbia, SC: A very pretty small flower.

Wallace, NC: Shatters easy. Very small percent of blooms of show quality.

Virginia Beach, VA: A must if you like miniatures.

MARGARET DAVIS:

Mobile, AL: Outstanding! A good bloomer.

Panama City, FL: Excellent for some people, not for me. I believe that it is too hot here.

Shalimar, FL: Excellent show bloom. Grows well in the ground and in containers.

Melrose, FL: Beauty dependent on unique color. Plants should be selected while in bloom. Ungibbed scions that produce perfect blooms should be staked out in advance.

Savannah, GA: Good outside.

Columbia, SC: One of the best!

Wallace, NC: Excellent grown protected. One of the best medium size flowers we have. No experience outside.

MATHOTIANA SUPREME:

Mobile, AL: One of the best. I'm partial to the variegated form.

Panama City, FL: Excellent! If I could have only one camellia, this would be my choice.

Shalimar, FL: One of the best in the 'Mathotiana' family. Grows outside in full sun. Blooms well. Show winner.

Melrose, FL: Huge blooms open perfectly. Highly variegated strains are most sought after, but are hard to come by and often do not hold very long.

Savannah, GA: Since gib, one of the best. Of course, on occasion will turn purple with gib.

Charleston, SC: Will not stand much cold. Better than average show flower.

Wallace, NC: Excellent inside, not very good outside.

Virginia Beach, VA: Large handsome flower - in variegated form, a real outstanding specimen.

MISS CHARLESTON:

Mobile, AL: Variegated form preferred.

Panama City, FL: Very good!

Shalimar, FL: One of my favorite flowers. Variegated form better for show blooms. Grows well outside.

Melrose, FL: Great for either a show flower or for the landscape.

Savannah, GA: Very good, and a sure show flower.

Charleston, SC: I have 4 nicely variegated plants. Flowers are very good. I like the variegated form better than the solid.

Columbia, SC: The variegated form is better than average show flower.

Wallace, NC: Excellent both inside and outside.

Virginia Beach, VA: Good red. Much prettier in variegated form.

PINK PERFECTION:

Mobile, AL: An old stand-by. Good.

Panama City, FL: Very nice.

Shalimar, FL: 1875 and still continues to be among the top small blooms.
A must for all growers.

Savannah, GA: An old favorite that always does well.

Charleston, SC: Good small flower. Profuse bloomer. For some reason,
they don't do well in shows.

Columbia, SC: One of the better older small flowers.

Wallace, NC: Good outside flower for landscaping. Good inside too.

Virginia Beach, VA: All right if you like small formal doubles.

SAWADA'S DREAM:

Mobile, AL: A delicate formal, quite nice.

Shalimar, FL: Excellent, pink, medium formal double. Holds well. Grows
well outside in full sun.

Savannah, GA: Good outside, but thrifty bloomer.

Charleston, SC: Hardly ever get a good bloom. They open out too much.
Don't hold the formal center.

Columbia, SC: A very pretty, medium delicate pink flower. Should be in
every collection.

Wallace, NC: Good quality bloom when it opens properly.

Virginia Beach, VA: Beautiful formal. Good performer, if not subjected to
too much cold.

SPRING SONNETT:

Mobile, AL: A lovely flower. Does well outside.

Savannah, GA: Has not done well for us. The plant is a poor and slow
grower.

Melrose, FL: A real jewel! Gib provides show quality blooms for early shows.
Gorgeous coloring at any time of the season.

Charleston, SC: Good and so is 'Herme'. All sports from 'Herme' family
are good.

Columbia, SC: Takes a lot of cold. A good flower.

Wallace, NC: Excellent both inside and outside.

TIFFANY:

Mobile, AL: A good bloomer.

Panama City, FL: Excellent!

Shalimar, FL: Another favorite, both solid and variegated. Grows outside,
full sun. A show winner.

Melrose, FL: Grows well in the ground, but critical of pH. Likes same soil
as retics. Early treated blooms are beautiful and so are the huge,
untreated blooms that open mid season.

Savannah, GA: Excellent, but plant does seem to be susceptible to die back.

Charleston, SC: Plant gets too much dieback, but flowers are still very good.
I've lost two plants from dieback.

Columbia, SC: One of the best early flowers.

Wallace, NC: Excellent grown protected. Very small percent comes with
the anemone form. Grows well.

Virginia Beach, VA: Outstanding pink flower on a pleasing plant.

TOMORROW PARK HILL:

Mobile, AL: Outstanding!

Panama City, FL: Excellent, but will not stand cold weather.

Shalimar, FL: Most consistent show winner. Can't have too many plants. Always on head table.

Melrose, FL: Like the 'Elegans' family, the 'Tomorrows' are hungry. Require severe pruning as plants get older. Gib causes blooms to blast if applied too early. Few japonicas can match the beauty of Park Hill.

Savannah, GA: Very good if bloomed early.

Charleston, SC: Real good blooms when they open. I have trouble getting mine to open, they bull-nose.

Columbia, SC: If I had to vote for "best", it would be for 'Tomorrow Park Hill Pink.'

Wallace, NC: Very good inside. Not too good outside.

Virginia Beach, VA: Outstanding! All 'Tomorrow' family is great.

VEILED BEAUTY:

Mobile, AL: Good flower, but shatters badly.

Panama City, FL: My wife likes it, I'm not so sure.

Shalimar, FL: My plant always blooms formal double. Excellent pink. Good outside. Seldom wins at shows.

Columbia, SC: One of the better "Haynie" flowers.

Wallace, NC: Good inside. No experience outside.

VILLE de NANTES:

Mobile, AL: An old stand-by. Good!

Panama City, FL: We do not get good flowers here because it is too hot.

Shalimar, FL: A MUST for every garden and greenhouse. Old but continues to be on the head table. 'Lady Kay' (sport) also excellent.

Melrose, FL: Many camellia fanciers consider it one of the greatest camellias of all time. Very cold-hardy. Villes do better mid-season and later, after we have had a bit of cold.

Savannah, GA: Without doubt, one of the best! Blooms best after we've had some cold weather - down to 28 or 30 degrees.

Charleston, SC: This is one of the best. Very good blooms. A very cold-hardy variety. My plant has very good variegation, 80 to 90 percent white.

Columbia, SC: One of the all time greats! Grows well at our house.

Wallace, NC: Excellent both inside and outside. Some years, blooms tend to be flat.

Virginia Beach, VA: When it has a lot of white, like the one in Elizabethan Gardens, it is a great flower.

RENAISSANCE (Con't. from Page 18)

possibly a more commercial, modern marketing type of thinking that might make it once again possible for camellia nurseries to find camellias profitable. Your guess is as good as mine when it comes to the bright future and what will set it off, and when. I can merely

run thru fairly recent history and then must leave dreams of the glorious future to each of us who is saddened by the fact that our hobby, like most other things, does rise and fall in cycles. No one, not even Dr. Kitamura, can set a date for the "up" movement to take over.

SOUTH ARKANSAS (Con't. from Inside Front Cover)

green tissue areas that will sprout again later. Established **C. japonicas** had little damage except for almost complete flower bud loss.

There were a number of spring surprises. Among the cultivars of **C. japonica** that came through with colorful blooms, but don't show quality, were 'Lady Clare,' 'Berenice Boddy,' 'Kitty,' 'Governor Mouton,' 'Aunt Jetty,' (its solid red form), 'Betty Sheffield,' 'Imura,' 'Peach Blossom,' 'Magnoliaeflora,' 'Dr. Tinsley,' 'Professor Charles S. Sargent,' and one bush of 'Pink Perfection.' There were blooms on some low branches of 'Destiny,' 'Laura Walker,' 'Mathotiana,' 'Oniji' and a few others which were under ice and snow. But frankly, this year's bloom crop of camellias was a 99 percent disaster. Any bloom was an event!

I have one **C. saluenensis** and it was slightly damaged, but the Williamsii hybrids, 'Donation,' 'E.G. Waterhouse,' and 'J.C. Williams' all came through without any real damage and still had a few precious, pleasing blooms. 'Brian,' a hybrid of *saluenensis* and *reticulata*, also had a few blooms. This encouraged me to try some more *reticulata* hybrids, which I have avoided because of fear of extreme tenderness. Perhaps the camellia that came through almost unhurt and still a cloud of tiny pinkish blooms, very unexpectedly, was 'Tiny Princess,' a hybrid of **C. japonica** 'Akebono' x **C. fraterna**.

From the above list, you can see that I grow camellias strictly for landscape value. Most of the show varieties did very poorly. I do want

to try some of Dr. W.L. Ackerman's hardy hybrids and hybrids with **C. oleifera** as a parent. This would have been a year to have given them a supreme test. I must confess that I had an order for camellias, a sizable one, with many of the smaller flowering camellia hybrids when the December freeze came. Sometime in January, I tore the entire order up, thinking that the end of growing camellias was here. Now, in all honesty, I feel that they are good for many more years.

I enjoy growing things among my pine trees, and I can grow almost anything there except roses. I have cleared out a small sunny area just to grow daffodils. Meanwhile, this summer I shall try clearing up another small camellia patch in my pine thicket, and get ready to plant some of my "wanted" camellias that were on the destroyed order. Most of the camellias are making fair spring recovery after the past winter's damage. With material that will keep tea and camellias scale under control easily, all that remains is to keep camellias petal blight under control. Any year now, there will be another camellia vintage year!

Everything outside is defoliating to some degree, some up to 50 percent. 'Pharaoh,' of which we were very fond, was our greatest loss. It, along with some other younger retics, lost all of their leaves immediately. The only outside retic which wasn't hurt at all is good old 'Francie L.'

Charles Keeton, Long Beach, MS

CAMELLIAS AND OTHER THINGS

Joe Austin

The best flower I saw the past year was Robert Fowler's 'Curtain Call'. The flower was seven inches wide and at least five inches deep.

When I write and say that I have cut down some flower because it is no good, and have grafted something else on it, this is not to say that it would not make a beautiful plant in parts of Australia, New Zealand or even parts of the United States. I write mostly for the greenhouse growers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. I have cut down hundreds of beautiful flowers in the last thirty years. If they don't have "oomph" and go to the head table, I don't want them. Ninety percent of the seedlings being named today will never get to the head table.

I have started grafting the last three years the first of January. I have had good results. They are easy to uncover before you take off the plastic or open up the house. I do differently than most, in that I start to liquid feed as soon as the grafts get six inches high.

I have cut down twenty five camellias this year that have been named since 1979. They are look alike, their stamens turn dark, or they are just plain no good! If I have a three year healthy graft, it has to show me something the third or fourth year.

Judges, some of you are breaking rules. Some of you stand around while the exhibitors are entering their blooms, talking and getting in the way. This is a no-no! If you are going to judge, you shouldn't see anyone's blooms

Four Oaks, NC

before the judging starts. I have heard complaints about this, complaints from people who are too timid to write.

I am looking for a choker type mole trap. Does anyone have one he will sell, or can anyone tell me where I can buy such a trap?

We all think that our societies are first class. They are, but in the last two years I have seen our trophies not keep up with our societies or the people in them. Our show chairmen should see to it that our exhibitors get trophies that they are proud to show off. It is easy to raise money for anything, if you just ask for it.

I appreciate the nice letter, Mrs. Sebire. To get compliments from you two pros makes me feel good. I do get some flak when I talk about someone's flower, dog, or child. I shall always tell it like it is. I have never seen anything to beat the truth yet.



Here in Florida, we have always been warned not to prune any hardwood specimens of horticulture until after growth has started. Citrus trees that defoliate do so to assume the condition of deciduous plants, and better adjust to cold. Usually they put out new leaves in due time and require the minimum of cosmetic pruning. Hope that camellias share that phenomenon.

Ivan Mitchell, Melrose, FL

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A Salute to Camellias

Luther W. Baxter, Jr.

Camellias burrow not to escape winter's passion,
Standing tall, they await the spring;
Then in nature's rarest fashion,
Flowers erupt when birds begin to sing.

Mighty seed covered from infancy,
Begin their growth march to the fall;
Man watches them in carefree fantasy,
Investing them with powers that enthrall.

Fall nudges the sleeping seed,
To burst forth through pods' splitting seams;
They fall to earth, forever freed
From mother's fountain, now requiring sunbeams.

Seedlings erupt on schedule to Nature's call,
Cracking earth's surface here and there;
Leaves and stems become exquisite overall,
As roots search earth for their care.

Growth is slow through the years,
Gracefully splended, not rushing time;
For perfection knows not haste, but fears
Such waste leading to wanton crime.

A salute to such beauty, bourne
By saints to this world of ours;
We need never be torn,
As other beauties equally tower.