### Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Вор Норе

Photo by Jim Darden

### ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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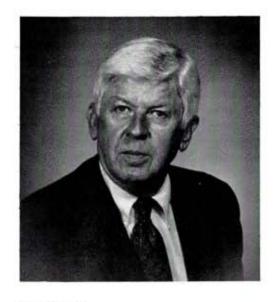
| PRESIDENT Leslie P. Cawthon, Jr. 2405 Howell Mill Road, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30318 (404) 355-4478    |
|---|
| 1st VICE PRESIDENT  |
| 2nd VICE PRESIDENT Fred G. Hahn, Jr. 4437 McKee Road Charlotte, North Carolina 28105 (704) 846-2245 |
| SECRETARY & TREASURER   |
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### COVER GRAPHIC

Our cover Camellia is BOB HOPE. This extraordinary large Camellia bloom is such a deep red hue that the SCCS Camellia Nomenclature book describes it as "Black Red." The bloom is semi-double, and has irregular petals. The plant is slow growing, and is compact in habit. BOB HOPE was introduced by Nuccio's Nursery in 1972.

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### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

BUDDY CAWTHON ATLANTA, GEORGIA

### Greetings!

Isn't modern-day science fantastic in that it can warn of impending disaster such as Hugo! It's wonderful that our members all survived. Those of you with damage — large or small — our hearts are with you as you rebuild. We send a special good wish to "our motel" — the Independent Holiday Inn at Myrtle Beach. They hope to be able to reopen in April of 1990.

Until you hear otherwise — from other sources — circle October 5th and 6th, 1990 for our next convention. We'll be in touch with the motel regarding rates and dates. In my way of thinking, we'll just pick up where we left off — and celebrate our 10th Anniversary Convention next year. And get ready to buy chances on two camellia paintings! Bless Sadie Lyon's heart, she had one all ready and named and ready to go.

I continue to be very impressed with the stories I hear — of how various of our members helped each other. The Shepherds in North

Charleston, S. C., were badly damaged but nobly assisted. Many, many calls were made to check on folks safety and to offer assistance.

I'm sure those of you who made it to the ACS Meeting in Natches did lots of catching up and swapping of stories. Whoever thought in-land Charlotte, N. C. would ever be the victim of a hurricane.

Here's hoping your fall shows have been good ones — and that the coming winter shows will be better. Please — promote ACCS at your shows. Remember, a large enough membership means more color covers for our fine ACCS publication. If you'll all get two new members, we'll have it made.

Good growing — good showing — in good health.

Buddy Cawthon

### What I Have Learned From HUGO

by Donna Shepherd, Charleston, S. C.

We offtimes repeat out loud to each other. "Camellia friends are the best!" Camellia friends are a joyous group who appreciate each other. I want to express my special thanks for such friends.

We couldn't have gotten through the devastation of HUGO -

house completely covered in fallen trees;

trees dropping in uninvited into our attic and walls;

water leaking through ceilings and light fixtures;

sodden rugs;

sweeping water out of the kitchen and breakfast porch;

the smell of mildew on hot, sticky mosquito filled nights;

the smell of kerosene lamps:

cooking on a grill on the front porch under a leaking roof while batting at super-size mosquitoes:

standing in a long line, in the rain, for ice or water, and when it's your turn for service only to be told they're all out;

being without water for 4 days;

being without power for 15 days;

being without drinking water for 14 days (it smelled awful and tasted worse). We're still on bottled water, we just can't seem to get weaned; tossing out cartons of spoiled shelled, cleaned shrimp, crab, and other good things to eat;

cleaning out a molded refrigerator;



This is Bill and Donna's house after HUGO! The power is out, and nearly all of the huge pine trees are down. (Photo by Shepherd)

Ah, but it is an experience to live through. In the midst of all these circumstances camellia friends called to see what they could do for us.

- Jim Pinkerton drove all the way from Lugoff and returned in the dark, just to bring us a much needed generator. He also brought a five gallon can full of gas.
- Annabelle Fetterman, and Molly and Kyle, drove a four hour trip down from Clinton, to bring ice, water, fruit, food. They cooked a delicious meal on the grill and served it before heading the long way back home.
- Marion Edwards wanted to bring Tom Adams up from Jacksonville to cut the trees out of the house and install temporary roofing. Later we used cranes.
- We received many calls and letters from all over the States offering to come and help.
- 5. Gladys and Jim Pinkerton got together thirty of their camellia friends who were manhandled by HUGO. They swapped tales of wind, rain, tornadoes, damages, as they enjoyed camellia fellowship and the "best BBQ in Williamsburg county". Getting together was a morale booster. It gave us the lift in spirits that we needed.



This pine tree went completely through the roof of Bill and Donna's home. Most of their Camellias are crushed. (Photo by Shepherd)

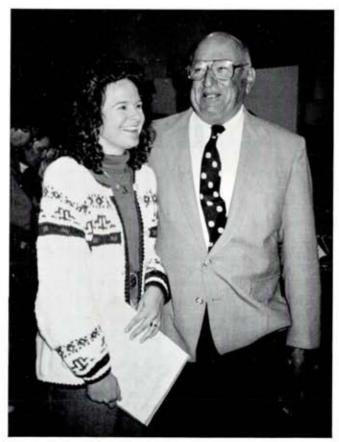
### This is what I have learned from HUGO:

- 1. Patience
- 2. It's got to get better
- After four days you get tired of chicken noodle soup and vienna sausage sandwiches.
- 4. Folded peanut butter sandwiches are the best frustration helpers.
- 5. You can do without electricity better than you can do without water.
- 6. A bathtub full of water will only flush a john six times.
- 7. More patience
- A complete rubdown with mosquito repellant at night before sleeping on top of the sheets won't break you out in a rash, neither will it discourage mosquitoes.
- A pine that came down first into the attic was 119 years old, the next two were 102 and 88, respectively. Age doesn't qualify in proportion to damages. (Ask any mother of a three year old).
- 10. Camellia friends are really the best. I felt God's love and presence through their care and concern for us. They're not only the best of friends, but they're the greatest!

Donna Shepherd

On a much brighter note, Leslie Serpas and Parker Connor enjoy the Mid-Carolina Camellia Show at the South Carolina State Fair in Columbia on October 21. Parker was the top winner in the show.

(Photo by Shepherd)



### CAMELLIAS DOWN-UNDER

Jeff L. Blythman

My experience and knowledge of camellia culture on the Adelaide plains in South Australia, give me the qualifications to evaluate camellias growing in rather harsh conditions which exist in this area.

These are the conditions: Known as the hottest and driest State of Australia, the rainfall rarely reaches sufficient quantity to supply the needs of the country, so pumping is necessary from the Murray river, some 80 Km away. This water has a salinity content which is not all that good for camellias and other acid loving plants. Rainwater tanks are a must under these conditions.

It is not uncommon for temperatures to reach 40 degrees C. sometimes for days at a time. Shadecloth of 70% to 80% is required for sun protection. It also blocks out the severe hot northerly winds. The winter months are no problem. Temperature reaches freezing point. It is advisable to grow camellias in containers using a good potting mix which is slightly acid. Direct ground planting would mean the removal of one cubic metre of heavy red clay and replacing it with a potting mix or soil from the hills area, for each camellia. Top soil on the plains is shallow and in some places a hard limestone crust exists, which must be broken up and removed.

In recent years, I have reduced my collection, keeping those that are reliable, this giving them more breathing space, air circulation which is very important, and reducing die-back and insect attack. So the camellias mentioned here are the pick of the crop, best in plant behaviour, and bloom performance and appearance.

### C. japonica

No. 1: 'Ville de Nantes'. Heavily variegated, good form, reliable year after year. It must be sprayed regularly

### South Australia

to ward off insects. A MUST.

No. 2: 'Feathery Touch'. High ruffled petals, always catches the judges eye. Extremely hard to propagate, but worth the effort. Keep trying.

No. 3: 'Apollo 14'. Has small buds which open to a medium sized perfectly shaped formal double bloom.

No. 4: 'Desire'. A large formal double, different from the nomenclature book description, as mine has a creamy white centre to white, then edged deep pink. Vigorous grower.

No. 5: 'Gee Homeyer'. Blooms late, just in time for the final show of the season. Brillant pink, veined red. An eye catching formal double.

No 6: 'Kathryn Funari'. One of my later editions. It's more red than pink. A pleasing large formal, well worth a place in any garden.

No. 7: 'Chie Tarumoto'. A real eye catcher! Blush pink formal, vigorous grower. Admired by all who see it. Profuse bloomer.

No. 8: 'Nan Pickering'. A local registration, pale pink, large formal double with willowy growth. Has the appearance of a non-retic hybrid bloom. No. 9: 'Honey Glow'. White shading to cream to almost yellow centre. An unusual bloom. Medium to large formal double. Very attractive.

No. 10: 'Music City'. Brilliant pink formal. A vigorous grower. In my opinion very under-rated. Perfect blooms for any show bench.

No. 11: 'Dixie Knight Supreme'. A must for the lover of variegated blooms. Dark red, heavily moired white peony form with high petals.

No. 12: 'Tanmia'. My best miniature formal double, which I find is not the same as 'Grace Albritton', which I also have. Differences occur in size and colour of blooms. Growth habits also vary.

It may be noticed from the above, formal doubles dominate the selection. They appear to flourish better here than in neighbouring states.

### C. reticulata hybrids

In my opinion, there are far too many new registrations of mostly look-alike blooms. Many fail to remain fresh after 24 hours from picking. The best of my collection are those listed below.

No. 1: 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. The best bloom and plant is this variety. It is hardy, reliable and vigorous. Always a show winner.

No. 2: 'Harold L. Paige'. Not as reliable as 'Dr. Clifford Parks', but can produce quality blooms. Mine are deeper than bright red as listed.

No. 3: 'Debut'. This one varies from year to year, possibly due to the weather conditions. Have had prize winning blooms from the plant.

No. 4: 'Singapore Sal'. Found this one rather hard to propagate, but worth trying. Has magnificent deep purplish red

flowers. Very impressive.

No. 5: 'Cameron Cooper'. Have won best California raised. A vigorous grower, with an unusual salmon shade of pink. Worth having.

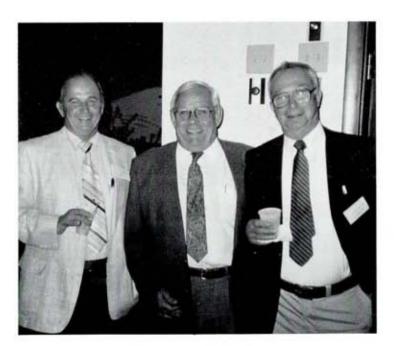
No. 6: 'Glowing Embers'. New Zealand bred, has won many firsts with its excellent bright red semi-double blooms. A vigorous grower.

No. 7: 'Curtain Call'. Another winner. A very large deep rose pink with high wavy petals. Won three times in one season with this one.

No. 8: 'Lady Glencora'. Another New Zealand bred variety. A very pale pink of unusual tone. High wavy petals. Still a young plant. Worth watching.

No. 9: 'Elizabeth Astles'. Australian bred by Edgar Sebire. The best I have from his nursery. Very large vivid pink, peony form.

No. 10: 'Arthur Knight'. This one is still under evaluation. A white sometimes showing a faint tinge of pink at the bud centre. Opens like a waterlily. A formal double medium sized bloom, some



Three fine
Camellia
growers —
Buck Mizzell,
Howard Rish,
and Rupert
Drews at a
Camellia party
in Myrtle Beach.
(Photo by Shepherd)

have lasted to stretch and open showing some short yellow stamens. Plant growth is vigorous with unusual dark green foilage. An interesting local release.

Non-reticulata hybrids

Many of these releases do not fare so well in this environment. The following would be the hardiest in my garden.

No. 1: 'Rose Boquet'. A strong, vigorous plant, producing beautiful formal and rose form double blooms.

No. 2: 'Rose Parade'. Deep rose pink formal double blooms, very reliable plant of 10 years, surviving very well in a 15" plastic container.

No. 3: 'Sunsong'. New Zealand bred, a seedling of 'Elegant Beauty'. Produces many fine soft pink, large Formal double blooms. Very vigorous.

No. 4: 'Tamzin Coull'. A large water lily shaped formal double of deep pink colour. Very attractive. Vigorous, willowy growth.

No. 5: 'Len Bray'. Australian bred.

Deep orchid pink formal double. Very impressive. Large bloom with many rows of incurved petals.

No. 6: 'Mona Jury'. Now 6 years old. Has settled to produce many attractive large peony form blooms.

No. 7: 'Angel Wings'. A delicate white, shaded to pink, semi-double with high wavy petals. This one has always been popular as a show bloom.

No. 8: 'E.G. Waterhouse, var.'. I prefer this one to the original solid colour. Very reliable and vigorous.

This covers my evaluation, as I see them in my garden at the present time, under the somewhat harsh conditions prevailing here. From information just received, a japonica seedling of 'Erin Farmer' x 'Bea Rogers' has recently been registered in New Zealand by John Lesnie called 'Queen Diana'. It is a medium sized formal double, pale pink shading to white inner petals. The informant states that it has exceptional beauty and is truly worth waiting for. It could be released later this year.



Pretty Camellia ladies at a Gulf Coast Camellia Society meeting in Mobile, Alabama — (L to R) Lawanda Brogden, Mildred Robertson, Jeanette Waltz, Clara Hahn, and Donna Shepherd.

(Photo by Shepherd)

### **FAYETTEVILLE**

Best Japonica In Open Lady Kay Elizabeth Brown Hilton Head, S. C. Runner Up Best Japonica In Open Helen Bower Parker Conner Edisto Island, S. C. Best Japonica Large/Very Large Protected Helen Bower Var. Joe Austin Four Oaks, N. C. Best Japonica Medium Protected Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fowler Dawn's Early Light Lumberton, N. C. Best Japonica Small Protected Little Susie Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard Wallace, N. C. Best Reticulata/Hybrid w/Reticulata Parentage Curtain Call Joe Austin Four Oaks, N. C. Best Hybrid (not reticulata) Charlean Var. Mrs. Ray Watson Greensboro, N. C. Best Collection 3 Alike In Open Rose Dawn Parker Conner Edisto Island, S. C. Best Collection 3 Alike Protected Pharoah Jack Teague Columbia, S. C. Best Collection of 5 Different Protected Our Kerry, Silver Chalice, Joe Austin Delta Dawn, Harold Paige, Cameron Cooper Four Oaks, N. C. Sweepstakes Protected Mrs. Ray Watson Greensboro, N.C. Sweepstakes In Open Parker Conner Edisto Island, S. C. Best Miniature Mr. & Mrs. Bill Howell Tammia Wilmington, N. C. Best Seedling Betty Brown Hilton Head Island, S. C. Court of Honor Class A: 1 Japonica In Open Sea Foam Parker Conner Edisto Island, S. C. Mangery Wallace Class A: 1 Japonica In Open Miss Charleston Fairmont Class B: 1 Japonica Large/ Very Large Protected Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fowler Ruffian Lumberton, N. C. Class B: 1 Japonica Medium Protected Nuccio's Gem Joe Austin Four Oaks, N. C. Class B: 1 Japonica Small Protected Pink Perfection Ray Bond

Raleigh, N. C.

Class C: 1 Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid Class D: 1 Hybrid

(no reticulata)

Class E: 1 Miniature

Hulyn Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fowler

Pink Dahlia Sport

Snowie

Joe Austin Four Oaks, N. C. Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Blanchard

Wallace, N. C.

### 39th ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

CITADEL MALL 1-28-89

Best Bloom Grown In Open:

Clark Hubbs

Runner up

Guilio Nuccio, Var.

M. S. Edwards Jacksonville, Fla. Walter Bilbro

Best Bloom Grown Under

Protection:

Elegans Supreme, Var.

Runner Up

Elegans Champagne

Best Seedling

Best Hybrid in Open

Mona Jury

Best Hybrid Protected

Mona Jury

Best Reticulata in Open

Valley Knudsen

Best Reticulata Protected

Emma Gaeta

Best Miss Charleston in Open

Best Miss Charleston Protected

Best Novice Bloom

Ville de Nantes

Best White Bloom in Open Chow's Han-Ling

Best White Protected

Ruffian

Best Miniature

Botan-Yuki

Court of Honor in Open

Betty Sheffield, Var.

Ville de Nantes Sea Foam

Moonlight Bay

Charleston, S. C. Clara & Fred Hahn

Charlotte Joe Austin Four Oaks, N. C.

Clara & Fred Hahn Charlotte, N. C.

Mary & Tom Adams Órangepark, Fla. Joe Austin

Four Oaks, N. C. Mary & Tom Adams Orangepark, Fla. Joe Austin

Four Oaks, N. C. Rupert Drews Charleston, S. C.

R. F. Stubenrauch Charleston, S. C.

Wayne Altman Summerville, S. C. Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Edisto Island, S. C. Clara and Fred Hahn Charlotte, N. C.

G. M. Serpas Summerville, S. C.

Albert V. Ewan Charleston, S. C.

Parker E. Connor, Jr. Edisto Island, S. C. Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Edisto Island, S. C.

|                          | Park Hill Tomorrow          | Harry O. Shaw  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
|                          | Donckelarii                 | Mt. Pleasant, S. C.<br>Mrs. William M. Polock<br>Charleston, S. C. |
| Runner Up Court          | Granada                     | Parker E. Connor, Jr.<br>Edisto Island, S. C.                      |
|                          | Jean Clere                  | Parker E. Connor, Jr.<br>Edisto Island, S. C.                      |
|                          | Helen Bower                 | Mary & Tom Adams<br>Orangepark, Fla.                               |
|                          | Elegans Supreme             | Mary & Tom Adams<br>Orangepark, Fla.                               |
|                          | Lady Kay                    | Julian Hayes<br>Mt. Pleasant, S. C.                                |
|                          | Betty Sheffield Pink        | Albert V. Ewan<br>Charleston, S. C.                                |
| Court of Honor Protected | Tony's Joy, Var.            | Joe Austin<br>Four Oaks, N. C.                                     |
|                          | Clark Hubbs, Var.           | Joe Austin   |
|                          | Show Time                   | Four Oaks, N. C.<br>W. H. Rish                                     |
|                          | Katie, Var.                 | Winnsboro, S. C.<br>W. H. Rish<br>Winnsboro, S. C.                 |
|                          | Tomorrow, Var.              | Clara & Fred Hahn<br>Charlotte, N. C.                              |
|                          | Julia                       | Jim Pinkerton<br>Lugoff, S. C.                                     |
| Runner Up Court          | Margaret Davis              | Clara & Fred Hahn<br>Charlotte, N. C.                              |
|                          | Dawn's Early Light          | Jim Pinkerton<br>Lugoff, S. C.                                     |
|                          | Coronation                  | Jim Pinkerton<br>Lugoff, S. C.                                     |
|                          | Arcadia                     | Ann & Mack McKinnon<br>Lugoff, S. C.                               |
| Tom                      | norrow Marbury's Light Pink | Ann & Mack McKinnon<br>Lugoff, S. C.                               |
|                          | Mathotiana Supreme          | Joe Austin<br>Four Oaks, N. C.                                     |

### Sweepstakes

Gold Sweepstakes in Open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.; Edisto Island, S. C. Silver Sweepstakes in Open: Mary & Tom Adams, Orangepark, Fla.

Gold Sweepstakes Protected: Joe Austin, Four Oaks, N. C. Silver Sweepstakes Protected: Jim Pinkerton, Lugoff, S. C.

Show Chairman: Rupert Drews

Number of blooms: 1,532

### RELEASE OF COLD-HARDY CAMELLIAS

by Dr. Bill Ackerman

Reports on Progress of a Cooperative Agreement with the U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D. C.

During the autumn of 1988 the National Arboretum purchased a series of camellia rootsocks. These I grafted with scions of the following six fall-blooming cultivars: Snow Flurry, Polar Ice, Winter's Rose, Winter's Charm, Winter's Hope, and Winter's Star. I also grafted a number of spring-blooming hybrids. The objective has been to establish about 20 plants each of the six fall-blooming cultivars as foundation material for eventual release by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the nursery trade.

The above is in addition to the release and distribution I have done on my own to a series of eight primary-source nurseries. However, with the USDA facilities that are involved, these camellias would receive much wider publicity than I have been able to achieve independently. The main

concern here is not to create a demand that exceeds our capacity to supply any interested nurserymen with sufficient plant material for them to do an adequate job of propagation themselves. This is crucial for the ultimate sale — in volume — to the public.

At the present time 20 plants have been obtained for each of five of the six fall-blooming cultivars; for the sixth cultivar — Winter's Hope — only 10 of the 20 grafts survived. During the fall more plants of this cultivar will be grafted, and we will hope for a better survival rate this time. This should complete phase one of this program.

No final decision has been made on the next step to be taken, but there are at least two alternatives. One is for the members of the Arboretum's staff to use these grafted plants as a source

Dr. Bill Ackerman has been active in the Camellia breeding program at the USDA in Beltsville, Maryland, for over 20 years.



of scions for making rooted cuttings for later distribution to nurseries. The second is to arrange a contract with one or more wholesale nurserymen to use the grafted plants for propagation and distribution to the retail trade.

Insofar as my own plans are concerned, I am still looking for another test winter before I seriously consider naming or releasing any of the spring-flowering C. oleifera x C. japonica or C. x Williamsii hybrids. I believe that six or eight of these have considerable merit on the basis of their flower characteristics and their outdoor performance thus far. It is just that their reaction to another severe winter would, hopefully, convince me that at least several of these will stand up over the long term of seasonal changes in the Washington metropolitan area. In

the meantime I continue to propagate additional plants of these preliminary selections so that we will have a head start on any that may become a final selection for naming and release.

Observations regarding other coldhardy materials: The approximately 2,000 camellia seedlings resulting from collections made in Korea by Barry Yinger and Sylvester March are presently under field testing for their winter hardiness. Although they are showing difference in vigor and survival capacity, this is due primarily to weed competition and general neglect rather than a response to cold weather. Unfortunately, a program that was begun with much enthusiasm now appears to be more like an orphaned child that nobody wants.



Dr. Bill Ackerman is shown here studying new Camellia varieties from his breeding program in Maryland.

### NOTICE TO NURSERYMEN RELATIVE TO THE NAMING AND RELEASE OF CAMELLIA HYBRID 'ACK-SCENT'

### By Dr. William L. Ackerman

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, hereby releases for commercial use a cultivar of camellia named ACK-SCENT. The new cultivar is the product of interspecific hybridization combining significant fragrance with a flower size and form comparable to existing commercial cultivars.

Camellia ACK-SCENT (NA 40084) resulted from a seedling selection of a controlled cross of **C. japonica** 'Kramer's Supreme' x C. hybrid 'Fragrant Pink' (P. I. 315906) (C. rusticana (P. I. 228187) x C. lutchuensis (P. I. 226756)) made in November 1972 by Dr. W. L. Ackerman, National Arboretum, Washington, D. C. This new clone is a by-product of an intensive investigation of interspecific compatibility within the genus **Camellia** and intergeneric compatibility of this genus with other members of the family Theaceae.

The most outstanding characteristic of ACK-SCENT is its deep spicy fragrance, most of which is assumed to be inherited from the small flowered **C. lutchuensis**. The flowers of ACK-SCENT are full peony form, 18 petals, 16 petaloies with some rabbit ears, deep shell pink, yellow-orange anthers and creamy white filaments, 4½ inches across and 2 inches deep. Plant is upright with medium growth rate. Leaves are dark glossy green, 5 inches long, and 2-¾ inches wide. The new cultivar is spring blooming, mid-season with individual flowers holding well and dropping from plant at senescence.

The Agriculture Research Services has none of these plants for sale. Scions or cuttings will be available in 1982 to qualified nurserymen, arboreta and botanical gardens. Requests should be made in writing to Dr. W. L. Ackerman, U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D. C. 20002.

Agricultural Research Service Unites States Department of Agriculture

### MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

### February 11 & 12, 1989

Columbia, South Carolina

Best Camellia Japonica In Open

Very Large-Large Donckelarii Lib Scott Runner-up Borom's Gem Var. Parker Connor Medium-Small Betty Sheffield Blush Supreme Lib Scott Lady VanSittart Runner-up T. E. Powers Miniature Tammia Parker Connor Runner-up John Newsome Fircone

C. Japonica: (Protected)

Very Large-LargeMathotiana SupremeClara & Fred HahnRunner-upSilver ChaliceJoe AustinMedium-SmallVille de NantesClara & Fred HahnRunner-upMargaret DavisClara & Fred Hahn

C. Reticulata: (Includes hybrids with reticulata parentage.)

Outside & Inside Protected Tony's Joy Joe Austin
Runner-up Curtain Call Clara & Fred Hahn

C. Hybrid: (With other than reticulate parentage.)

Outside & Inside Protected Mona Jury Fred & Clara Hahn

Special Valentine Day Award — Ann & Mack McKinnon Tray of 3 of a kind — Joe Austin Tray of 5 different — John Newsome

Unprotected

Best White Bloom Elegans Champagne Parker Connor

Protected

Best White Bloom Sarah Alice Ruffin Clara & Fred Hahn
Best Bloom by Novice Anita Ann Hughey

### GOLD CERTIFICATES:

In open, won by Parker Connor Protected, won by Joe Austin

### SILVER CERTIFICATES:

In open, won by Lib Scott Protected, won by Fred & Clara Hahn

### **OUTSTANDING ARRANGEMENT CERTIFICATES**

Tri-Color Certificate, won by Octama Poole Creativity Certificate, won by Patsy Outlaw

### BEST TRAY OF THREE OF A KIND

Joe Austin

### BEST TRAY OF FINE DIFFERENT

John Newsome



As I write this column it is the first week of October, usually a jubilant time of year for Camellia fanciers. The buds are swelling and extraordinary Camellia shows are just around the corner. Our annual ACCS meeting has been planned for this coming weekend in Myrtle Beach, and then the season will be upon us.

But wait!! Something is wrong this year. We have just had a visit from a very inhospitable character named Hugo, and suddenly many of our hopes for the coming year have been dashed.

Hurricane Hugo scored a direct hit on the city of Charleston. It then passed near Columbia, and still was a potent storm as it smashed into Charlotte. Foresters tell me that there is a forty mile wide swath connecting all of the cities named above in which over half of the forests are on the ground and crops are ruined. I am concerned for everyone who was unfortunate enough to be in Hugo's path, but my first thoughts were for my Camellia friends.

Here in southeastern North Carolina we luckily dodged the bullet and suffered only minimal wind damage. Not far south of us, at Holden Beach where my family normally spends a week each summer, they are bull-dozing 330 beachfront homes, or what is left of them, as I write this column.

### Editor's Column

by Jim Darden

But, my greatest fears were that friends in Charleston were suffering from the effects of the storm. I called Parker Connor's number the morning after. The phone rang, so I assumed that his magnificent plantation home on Oak Island was still there. No answer came. I hoped that Parker and Amy had sought shelter inland. I was later told that they had gone to Greenville, and were safe. The home is intact, but there was serious damage to the ancient live oaks.

I tried to find out about Bill and Donna Shepherd, who live in the city. It was several days later when I finally got through and talked to Donna. She was shaken, but thankful to have come through the ordeal without injury. Eight days after the storm she was still without electricity. Over a dozen huge pines had gone down in the Shepherd's yard, one through the roof of their house. Heavy rains for the next several days poured in, ruining much inside. The big traffic circle just a few doors away on Montague Avenue had over 300 large pines on the ground.

Donna and Bill tried to find an electric generator in Charleston, then Savannah, and then Jacksonville. Florida. None was to be found. Three days after the storm they called Jim Pinkerton in Lugoff (near Columbia) to see if one could be found there. He had purchased one when he lost electricity, but it have just been restored. Knowing of the Shepherd's plight, Jim went directly to his car and drove straight to Charleston. In two hours and forty minutes he drove the 100+ miles under less than optimum conditions and arrived on the Shepherd's front porch with generator

Jim Pinkerton arrived just at dusk. For the first time in three days and nights there was electric light in the house. What a great testament to

Camellia friends. Jim had to turn right around and drive back toward Columbia that night. Bill and Donna had to deal with the water, heat, humidity, and mosquitos in their house, but with electric power. Jim Pinkerton is to be commended.

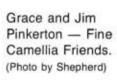
There were many others in Camellia circles who suffered from the hurricane that night. It is reported that Buck Mizell lost nearly all of his important cotton crop. Geary Serpas had serious tree damage in Summerville (near Charleston.) Latimer McClintock tells me that half of all the trees in Charlotte are down. He and Gloria were without power for several days.

Many others suffered even more. I was told that the huge Carolina Nursery in Monck's Corner, nearly 400 acres in size, took a direct hit from the storm and was in complete disarray.

The billion dollar timber industry in South Carolina is completely devastated, as are most of the agricultural crops which were not harvested before Hugo.

The aftermath of Hugo is a horrible sight. It has affected all of us more than we know. Our hotel at Myrtle Beach has lost its sea wall, swimming pool, and most of its driveway. This means that the end of the building must be nearly in the surf at high tide. It is closed until further notice. Our annual meeting has been cancelled.

When you read this in January I hope that the emergency needs of our Camellia friends in South Carolina will have been met. The region will still, however, be feeling the effects of the storm. I hope that everyone will offer any help that they can, in the spirit of Jim Pinkerton.





### Marion Edwards Camellia Lover and Photographer

by Jim Darden

If you have attended Camellia shows in the southeast regularly you will no doubt recognize the tall fellow from Jacksonville, Florida, who patrols the shows regularly with his trusty camera over his shoulder. Marion Edwards is well known in Camellia circles in the United States and around the world for his knowledge of Camellias and his prowess with the camera. He is one of this country's foremost students of the Camellia, traveling thousands of miles each year to study, collect, and photograph new and different varieties of his favorite plant.

Marion will not admit to being our best Camellia photographer. He insists that Vonnie Cave, from New Zealand, is the world's best. Then, he will contend, come Grady Perigren from San Marino, California, and Bob Marcy, from San Jose, California. But, if you look to see who is presenting the slide program of the newest and best Camellias at ACS meetings, the annual ACCS meeting in Myrtle Beach, and local meetings, invariably Marion Edwards is doing a yeoman's job.

Marion began growing Camellias in Richmond, Virginia, over twenty-eight years ago. He and his wife Delores bought a house there in 1961 when Marion was working with the Seaboard Coastline Railroad. In 1962 he attended a Camellia show where over 1500 blooms were being displayed. All were from unprotected landscape plants, so Marion decided to try his hand at growing them. He began to look for Camellia plants, and he caught a terminal case of the fever.

First, Marion bought three sasanquas for his landscape. Then he saw a *Berenice Boddy* in a show and marveled at the perfect bloom. He was



Marion Edwards with his prize-winning Camellias in Jacksonville, Florida.

hooked on japonicas and began collecting them for his landscape. Even though Richmond is now considered to be on the northern edge of the Camellia range, Marion collected and grew Camellias successfully for several years there. After five years the railroad transferred him to Jacksonville, Florida, and Marion's Camellia growing began in earnest.

In Florida Marion noticed that the colors of certain varieties were not quite as dark in hue as they had been in the cooler Virginia weather. For example, his *Magnoliaeflora* in Richmond had been a rich deep pink. But, in Florida the same variety bloomed



Marion arrives at a Camellia meeting in Myrtle Beach.

pale pink to white. Even so, the warm sub-tropical climate of Florida allowed Marion to gather a vast collection of the finest Camellia varieties which grew faster than he ever imagined possible in Virginia.

As Marion's collection grew he quickly spotted several varieties which would become his favorites. *Ville de Nantes* is his top variety. He loves the rabbit ears, which are sometimes both variegated and fimbriated. His favorite

show bloom is *Miss Charleston*, either solid red or variegated. He has won more show trophies with another of his favorites, *Helen Bower Var*.

I asked Marion what his favorite varieties were in each color category. In whites he likes Charlie Bettes and Snowman. In red blooms his best varieties are Miss Charleston, Woodville Red, and a sport from Woodville Red that is high on his list because it blooms in July. In pink Marion is partial to Rena Swick, Carter's Sunburst Pink, and Showtime. He is especially fond of Showtime, which he can blow up to 7" in diameter by gibbing.

After Marion had been thoroughly smitten by the Camellia bug he turned his attentions to show varieties. Reticulatas became one of his specialties, both for growing and photographing. His favorite red retics are Harold Paige and Dr. Clifford Parks. In pink he is proud of his Francie L., Valley Knudsen, and Royalty. Valentines Day is his favorite variegated retic.

Marion is excited about the variety Rachel Tarpy. Another which he is especially high on is Delores Edwards, named for his pretty wife. This is one of Hulyn Smith's seedlings from Australia or New Zealand. It is a pink and white non-retic hybrid which can come in peony, anemone, or semidouble forms. Its genealogy is unknown. Marion speaks highly of several of the new Nuccio hybrids, including Trophy, Grand Marshal, Nuccio's Carrousel, and Dahlonega.

Marion's collection grew over the years to the point that he had well over 300 varieties growing in his yard by the early 1980's. Then came the bad weather. The cold winter of 1983 killed over 50% of his plants. The winter of 1985, when temperatures dipped nearly to zero, finished off many more.

Marion offers several tips for winterizing your Camellias. He has found that plants need to be watered well during cold weather. You can pull them together (potted plants) to help insulate them, and then add a generous layer of pine straw mulch. He says that his plants survive better if planted in a large pot. It seems that the extra layer of soil around the roots tends to insulate them and prevent much of the cold damage that is often seen in plants of comparable size in smaller pots.

Marion Edward is a veritable fountain of Camellia knowledge, and has an endless supply of good growing tips for beginners. First, he says that we should never use city water. Rain water or well water is better. He says that Geary Serpas has tested his city water and found that it is very alkaline, with a pH of 8.8. Marion is envious of Ivan Mitchell, who lives in Melrose, Florida, on a spring fed lake. The water quality is excellent and Ivan's Camellias are spectacular.

Marion recommends a potting soil made of 75% pine bark and 25% sand. He sometimes uses sandy loam instead of sand in the mix, and he adds several amendments for their nutrient value. A trace element mix is essential for good growth, especially molybdenum to counter dieback. He uses a time release fertilizer, such as Osmocote, for the major elements. He limes his Camellias with dolomitic lime, which offers extra magnesium.

The fertilization program begins in February (in Florida) with a 19-7-11 slow release fertilizer along with trace elements and molybdenum. Then he comes back in June with a light application of ½ Mill Organite (activated sewage sludge) and ½ cottonseed meal (6-0-1). Then in autumn he covers the surface of the soil with another fertilizer concoction. This includes three parts Mill Organite,

Delores and Marion Edwards sit at the head table in Myrtle Beach with Fred Hahn in 1988.

(Photo by Shepherd)





Marion's photograph of Joe Austin's winning bloom, *Tomorrow*, *Marbury's Light Pink*, in Charleston, 1989, illustrates his expertise with the Camera.

(Photo by Edwards)

three parts cottonseed meal, one part blood meal (10-0-0), one part sulfate of potash (never muriate of potash), and one ounce of a trace element mix.

Having been to hundreds of Camellia shows Marion is certainly qualified to comment on the good and the bad found therein. He is particularly complimentary of the shows in Charleston, Columbia, and Charlotte, saying that they are very well organized and run. Here is what he looks for in a good show (a good objective lesson for all of us who are involved

in putting on a show this year):

1. You should be well organized, with everyone knowing what to do.

2. You should invite good judges, knowing for judging fairly and impartially.

3. Clerks and runners should be educated in advance so that they know exactly what to do when things get rushed.

4. Double check to be sure that all blooms that the judges want to send to the head table actually make it there.

5. Blooms of the same variety should always be grouped together. Marion had lost trophies

because of problems at shows in these last two categories.

Marion Edwards is currently attending about ten shows a year. He is rebuilding his collection, adding approximately 60 new plants each year. Since 1985 he has collected over 300 varieties, mostly japonicas. He grows all of his plants outside and in containers under a shade house and pine trees. Since he has no greenhouse he has only 25 retics and non-retic hybrids.

Marion says that he is retired now,

having gotten pretty lazy when it comes to a lot of things. He says that he would just as soon put things off until tomorrow if he can. Don't believe that, especially if you are competing with him in a Camellia show. Marion is a master grower, he knows everyone associated with Camellias, and he has collected virtually all of the newest and finest varieties in the world. The friendly Camellia photog from Jacksonville is an expert. I think you will be seeing that in his photographs.



Marion Edwards, always at the ready with his photographic equipment, shows Jim Pinkerton the latest varieties of fine Camellias.

### CAMELLIA GRAFTING AT MONROVIA NURSERY

By Rick Wells

Monrovia Nursery Company P. O. Box Q Azusa, California 91702

Camellias are one of the major crops at Monrovia Nursery. We prepare in the neighborhood of 1,500,000 camellia cuttings per year resulting in the production of over 1,000,000 liners. Approximately 600,000 of these liners are used for the production of larger containers while the rest are sold as liners. Of the 600,000 or so # 1 container plants produced each year, only about 5,000 are grafted, (this is only about 0.8%).

We graft camellias for one of three reasons. First some cultivars ('Pink Pagoda' for example) are very poor rooters or grow poorly on their own roots. Second, we can multiply new cultivars faster by utilizing both softer cuttings and heavier scionwood from the plants where cutting wood is limited. Third, when we receive wood of the new cultivars from other nurseries or arboreta the wood is often unsuitable for cuttings, but better suited for scionwood.

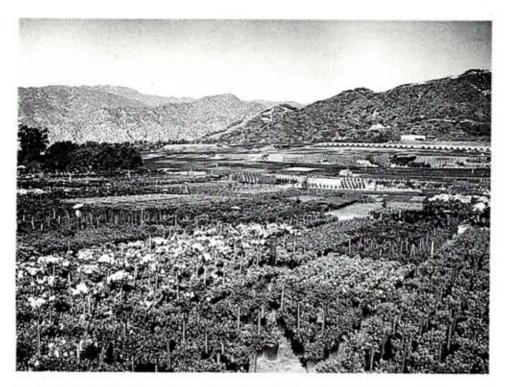
Camellias require considerable care during the grafting process. We have had the best results utilizing the following procedure. For understock, we use strong growing cultivars (usually Debutante) grown in #1 containers and produced by cuttings. The caliper of the understock should be about ¼ in. diameter. To produce a plant of suitable size for understock it takes approximately 2½ years from the time of making the cuttings. Understock is hand selected and must not be too lowbranched; it should have a straight base with little or no side branching for

the first 4 to 5 in. above the soil. Many times, the best understock are the plants which are a little too "leggy" to be kept for growing on. Selecting them to be grafting understock makes good use of them.

Understock is brought into the greenhouse during the middle of December, about two weeks prior to grafting. Because of winter rains, the understock usually comes into the house quite wet. It often takes two weeks for the understock to dry enough to be suitable for grafting. We have found that if the soil is too wet, the plant will "bleed" heavily, which will interfere with callusing and contribute to disease problems at the graft union.

The greenhouse environment is very important. Camellias should be kept cool; heating is only provided if night temperatures fall below 40°F. Extra shade is provided by draping 55% shadecloth inside the greenhouse over the benches. Since the grafts are covered with clear glass jars, this extra shade is necessary to help prevent heat build-up in jars.

Once the understock has dried to a suitable point, grafting begins. Just prior to grafting all understock is sprayed with a 200 ppm Benlate spray. Since a cleft graft is used, the first step is to cut off the understock at a height of 2½ to 3 in. above the soil with pruning shears. Next, a fresh cut is made on the understock with a sharp grafting knife, removing a thin slice of wood and any damaged tissue resulting from



Monrovia Nursery in California — The blooming azaleas in the foreground are part of several hundred acres of fine plants in Azusa, California.

the pruning shears. The first cut on the understock should not be flat, rather it should slope slightly to one side. Then a downward cut is made splitting the understock to a depth of about 1¼ in. This cut is made so that it bisects the angle of the first cut. In this way, one side of the vertical cut is through the high point of the understock. The understock is now ready for the scion.

Scionwood is collected from #1, #5, and #7 containers from last year's wood, although older wood may be used if necessary. Tips, seconds, and thirds are suitable. Scions are 3 to 3½ in. in length, containing 3 or 4 buds; shorter scions with only two buds may also be used if wood is in very short supply. Each scion should have two

leaves (with the end ½ of the leaf removed). All other lower leaves are removed. Scions are washed in 200 ppm Physan, dipped in 200 ppm Benlate and stored in plastic bags at 40°F until needed. Camellia wood stores well and may be good for three weeks if stored in this manner.

The two cuts on the scion are 1 to 1½ in. long. They should begin just below and on either side of one of the bottom buds, usually the second or third bud from the top. The bark left between the cuts should be slightly wider on the side below this bottom bud. Thus the scion base is slightly wedge-shaped. The very thin wood at the base of the scion should be removed since it is most susceptible to drying and desiccation.

Once the scion is prepared, it is placed in the understock so that the bottom bud faces out and is placed at the top of the sloping cut of the understock. Care should be taken to match the cambial areas of the scion and understock. Pulling the scion up so that 1/4 in. of the cut can be seen above the understock often simplifies the matching process as well as providing a good visual area to check callus formation. The graft is then wrapped with a 1/4 X 4 in, grafting rubber; no sealing is required. Lastly the entire graft is sprayed with a 200 ppm Benlate spray.

Wide mouth quart jars are used to cover each grafted plant. They provide each plant with its own mini greenhouse environment where a clean, high humidity condition can be maintained. Jars are washed and dipped in Physan prior to use.

By the third week after grafting, good callus formation can be seen; by the fourth week the buds on the scions begin to elongate and unfold. This is a critical time to watch for jar removal. At the first sign of bud unfolding, the jar should be tipped to provide some air circulation and start the hardeningoff process for the graft. The jar may be completely removed two or three days after tilting. If leaves are allowed to unfold in untilted iars, the new scion will usually wilt badly and sometimes even die when the jar is removed. Light hand misting may be necessary on warm days to prevent wilting. Two to three weeks after jar removal, the plants may be taken outside and placed in a shade house where they again may require hand misting on warm days for awhile.

By the following spring, one year later, the grafted plants are ready for shifting to larger containers.

This method has worked well for us for many years. The most important things to remember are to keep the grafts dark, cool and dry, and to be sure to remove the jars before leaves unfold.



Monrovia in Oregon — The Monrovia operation in Dayton, Oregon, produces millions of high quality plants.

25

### SHOOT PRUNING AT TRANSPLANT TIME — IS IT BENEFICIAL?

By Rita L. Hummel Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service

Pruning out various portions of the shoot at transplant time to compensate for roots lost in digging is a longstanding horticultural practice. The practice arises from what seems to be a logical assumption: the smaller root system of the newly planted tree or shrub can no longer take up adequate water to supply the top, thus shoot pruning becomes necessary.

Some recent research studies have cast doubt on the effectiveness of pruning at transplant time. Does it actually improve the growth and establishment of landscape plants? Shoot pruning Japanese holly plants that were moved from 2-inch liner pots into containers 6 inches in diameter by 12 inches deep, increased the number of new shoots, but suppressed root growth over a two month period when compared to nonpruned plants. Lateral root formation was inhibited in pistacia seedlings that were disbudded or treated with bud-inhibiting chemicals. Comparing the importance of buds and shoots in root regeneration of two oaks produced contrasting results: buds and shoots promoted root regeneration in pin oak, and easily transplanted species, but had no promotive effect on the early stages of root regeneration in scarlet oak, a difficult species to transplant. In silver maple, a growing bud was required to initiate spring root growth; removing it delayed root growth. Pruning studies of container-grown apple trees, again, demonstrated that shoot pruning stimulated shoot growth and inhibited root growth.

In field transplant studies with 12 bare root tree species, Oklahoma researchers removed 0, 15, 30 or 45 percent of the plant height before the spring growth flush. The pruning treatments had no effect on the survival of any species. Based on these results, they recommended that only corrective pruning be done at transplant, because excessive pruning reduced visual quality, increased suckers on some species and did not aid in establishment or survival.

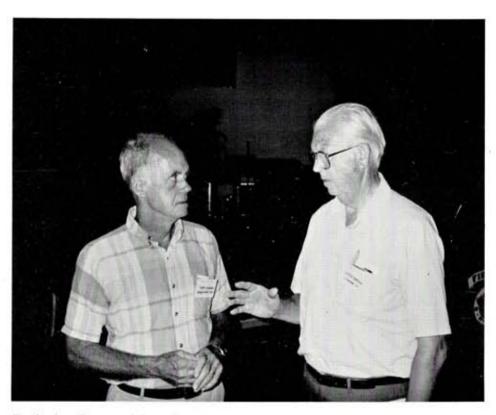
Pruning at transplant time can also have a profound effect on tree form. In some species, severe pruning tends to promote basal suckering, thus destroying the natural form of the species. When evaluating the potential effect of pruning, consider the tree's natural branching pattern. The extremes of tree form are the excurrent form, where a single leader outgrows the lateral branches beneath and produces a cone-shaped crown, and the decurrent form, where the lateral branches grow nearly as fast or faster than the terminal and produce a spreading, rounded crown.

The type of pruning cut used at transplant has considerable influence on the growth response of plants, as well. There are two types of pruning cuts, thinning and heading. When trees are headed (cutting a young shoot back to a bud or an older branch back to a stub) a number of shoots are often produced just below the cut. These shoots usually grow in an upright, vigorous fashion and compete to replace the leader which has been lost.

In trees with a decurrent growth habit, a number of branches arising near the same point is aesthetically undesirable and structurally unsound. The tree's usefulness from a landscape and safety standpoint may be impaired, unless one shoot becomes dominant and replaces the leader. In contrast to heading, the other pruning cut, thinning (removing a lateral branch at its point of origin or shortening the

main trunk by cutting to a lateral large enough to develop into the main trunk) produces a more evenly distributed growth response in the plant. Thinned plants become more open, but retain their natural form.

Reprinted courtesy of the N. C. Association of Nurserymen's Journal, "Nursery Notes."



Dr. Luther Baxter, right, talks with Tom Adams about diseases associated with Camellias. Dr. Baxter, from Clemson University, was the featured speaker at the October, 1988 A.C.C.S. meeting in Myrtle Beach. Tom is a member of the Camellia Society of Northeast Florida in Jacksonville. (Photo by Jim Darden)

### AN INVITATION TO JOIN

We hope that you will join the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Let's enjoy Camellias together.

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society was organized September 13, 1980 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The purpose of our organization is to extend the appreciation of Camellias and to promote the science of Camellia culture. Through our Camellia shows and programs, and by exchanging knowledge and ideas with the Camellia specialists within our membership, we feel that everyone in the ACCS benefits from being a member of this organization. Whether you are a beginning Camellia fancier or a veteran Camellia competitor, the ACCS is dedicated to providing information, shows, and social events that you will find helpful, entertaining, and enjoyable.

Annual dues for membership in the ACCS are \$10.00 for singles or couples. The membership year runs from September to September. A membership entitles you to three issues of Atlantic Coast Camellias, the journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. These are issued January 1 (spring), May 1 (summer), and September 1 (fall). In addition, your membership provides an invitation to our annual meeting in October in Myrtle Beach, S. C. This event has been especially successful in recent years, with over 100 participants in 1986, and with such keynote speakers as Julius Nuccio and Sergio Bracchi.

A variety of Camellia topics are addressed in articles published in Atlantic Coast Camellias. In addition to regular features concerning Camellia culture in the land-scape and in the greenhouse, articles cover such topics as Camellia planting, grafting, rooting, judging, pruning, gibbing, disease control, insect control, new and old varieties, show preparations and results, liming, fertilization, spraying, mulching, disbudding, and nursery production. Numerous photographs and illustrations are provided.

We invite you to join, and welcome you as a member. Please make your check payable to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Fill out the convenient application blank below, and mail it to: Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

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### Tips for a Water Wise garden

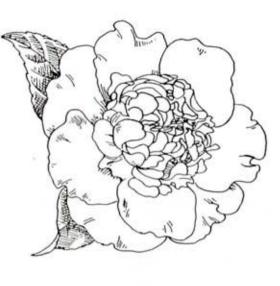
- Water infrequently, deeply and thoroughly. This will encourage rooting and greater tolerance to dry spells.
- Mulch soil surface. Mulching cuts down on water loss due to evaporation.
   A two inch layer of mulch or compost is recommended. Apply mulches to shrubs, trees, annuals, vegetable gardens and even containers.
- Shelter container plants. Move containers to shade areas to keep them from drying quickly in hot windy areas.
- 4. Use "Water Wise" plants. Plants rated "water wise" need less water to survive. Find out which plants (once well established) can get along with less water. Ask your California Certified Nurserymen which plants work well with limited watering.
- Install a drip or other water conservation irrigation system. Slow drip and deep root watering systems can save up to 60% of all water used in garden care.
- Use correct watering techniques. Water early in the day especially as the weather warms to reduce evaporation loss. Water less often for longer length of time to encourage deep root growth.
- Proper soil penetration. Spike or aerate lawns to insure maximum water penetration. Or use soil penetration chemicals.
- Don't be a gutter flooder. Turn off lawn sprinklers before water is wasted as run-off into gutters and streets. Be sure your irrigation system is in proper working condition.
- 9. Properly condition and fertilize your soil. Water does not easily penetrate clay soils and water passes too quickly beyond the root zone of plants in sandy soil. Adding organic matter to clay and sandy soils will increase the penetrability of clay soils and the water holding capaciaty of sandy soils. Fertilize in moderation using a complete, balanced formula.
- Cut lawns to proper height. Gradually let lawns reach a height of 3-4 inches. Longer blades of grass can mean going 3 to 4 days longer between waterings.
- Discourage water competition from weeds. Keep them pulled and/or use herbicides to control weed growth or mulch to keep them from growing.
- Plant in groups. Group together plants having similar water requirements (Ferns-Azaleas), (Willows-Alders).

Being "Water Wise" not only conserves water but actually helps you achieve a healthier garden. And it can be colorful too!

A message from the California Association of Nurserymen that can apply to anyone.

A wet spring can easily be followed by a dry summer.

## ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY Jim Darden, Editor Route 6, Box 504 Clinton, N. C. 28328



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