

# *Atlantic Coast Camellias*

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



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# ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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### COVER GRAPHIC

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*Camellia reticulata* 'Valentine Day Var.' is a large formal double show bloom which often has a rosebud center. This large salmon pink and white variety was introduced in the United States in 1975.

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# President's Message

By Bill Hardwick  
Reynolds, Georgia

The annual ACCS Convention was held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. After holding our breath through a number of hurricanes, the sun prevailed and a fun time was had by all.

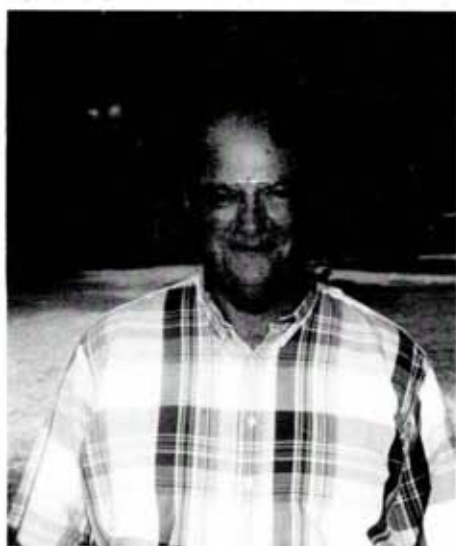
It was particularly enjoyable this year since this was a combined convention with the American Camellia Society. There were many who traveled great distances to convene.

There were a few changes in the format. The Friday night "by the pool" activity was catered, thus allowing free time from food preparation and giving more time to fellowship.

Saturday the Bloody Mary party was hosted by out-going President Ed Powers and his wife Lou, a perfect combination.

This was followed by the antics of Buck Mizzell and Bill Robertson, ace auctioneers, and their chief assistant, Rupie Drews. What an unbeatable trio for raising money. Because of their talents and sales ability we brought in \$1,335.00 during the auction.

Saturday night the banquet was again held at the Elk's club where we are always pleased with the accommodation. The after dinner



highlight was the Keynote speaker, Mr. Art Gonos, from Fresno, California. His presentation was a combination of humor and helpful information. As always the audience was all ears--nothing seems to capture the attention of a group of camellia growers more than a comrade sharing some inside information. Everyone has their own trade secrets.

At the time of the convention there seemed to be a common concern among growers--the lack of apparent blooms for the early shows. Fear always strikes our hearts this time of year. The conversation turns to when everyone started gibbing, the gib may be

bad, or the weather is too hot, too late, too early, too cold, too wet or too dry.

As this letter goes to press the shows at the Columbia S. C. Fair and the Georgia National Fair in Perry have come and gone with the number of blooms and the quality of the blooms being anything but a disappointment. When blooms are arrayed on the table, whatever the number, it is always a good show.

The convention was a huge success due to the combined efforts of Fred and Clara Hahn, Beulah Smith, Sadie Lyons, Ed and Lou Powers and a host of others, especially those who brought plants whose value so greatly increased

from the time they left home until they reached the auctioneers hands. The combined total of the auction and raffle was \$2,555.00.

There were some who were greatly missed this year due to illness. Among these were Bill and Donna Shepherd and Howard and Leona Rish. For them we pray a speedy recovery.

And for all our week-end show goers, we ask for a safe return home.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

Bill Hardwick



**Bill Hardwick, our new ACCS President, is shown with his wife Sally.**



# Pruning and Gibbing Camellias

by Ogle Hess  
Wilmington, N. C.

## PRUNING

Camellias should be pruned after flowering and before new growth begins, since blooms form on new growth. Pruning is done to produce the desired shape or size of plant. It also removes weak stems from the inside of the plant. This provides better air flow, which helps fight diseases.

Those who grow camellias for show will severely prune their bushes, thus reducing the number of buds to force the plant to produce larger flowers. The larger the plant the smaller the blooms. It depends upon whether you want the plant for shrubbery or for blooms.

Camellias are very tough plants and can be pruned severely if necessary. New growth will originate near the trunk. I have seen plants with trunks of 3-4 inch diameter cut back to within a couple of feet from the ground and the plant will survive.

When cutting larger branches (over 1/4" in diameter) I make sure that I spray the cut end with a tree wound dressing. I like to do most of my pruning through air layering, which does the pruning and at the same time produces another plant.



Ogle Hess

## GIBBING

When gibbed, Camellias will bloom early (30-60 days early) and flowers will be larger (15-20% larger) than normal. Getting early blooms can be of value in order to avoid severe weather. This method involves the use of Gibberellic Acid, which is often hard to find in Wilmington. It comes in a dry powder which then must be dissolved in water. The cost is about \$7.50 per gram, but this will treat hundreds of flowers.

**A Joe Austin camellia  
before pruning, with  
hundreds of buds and  
many branches.**



**The same camellia  
after Joe prunes,  
about 30 buds and a  
see-through plant.**

Along side of each flower bud is a leaf bud. Pick a plump bud, pinch out the leaf bud leaving a small pocket next to the flower. Place one drop of Gibberellic Acid in this socket and leave it alone. You should notice increased growth activity within a couple of weeks. Different species react in different ways to this treatment.

I start gibbing in early September when the flower buds and leaf buds are large enough to handle. I generally do about two buds per week on the larger plants so that

they will start blooming in November and continue for the next 5-6 months. I do not gib any buds later than mid-December. Do not gib too much on small plants or more than half of the buds on large plants.

I also pinch off multiple buds when they appear and thin the buds to several per plant. This will also increase the size of the blooms. Do this when the buds are big enough to pinch off. Wait too long and the blooms will be normal size.



**An apical tip on a Camellia plant with a bloom bud and a secondary (slender) vegetative bud.**





Here the vegetative bud has been removed prior to gibbing, leaving a small concave opening.



Gibberellic Acid, available from the American Camellia Society, is applied to the opening.



## Camellia Curator

Descanso Gardens seeks a committed horticulturist to guide the development of its 35-acre Camellia Oak Forest, one of the nation's premier camellia gardens. Duties include garden maintenance, mapping, labeling, and collection development. The curator also offers occasional tours, classes and other public programs.

**Qualifications:** Strong horticultural skills and knowledge; expertise in camellias; ability to work with people; strong communication skills; ability to perform physical gardening tasks

**To apply:** Send a letter of interest and resume to:

Richard Schulhof, Executive Director  
Descanso Gardens  
PO Box 778  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91012-0778

# CARL ALLEN

By Jim Darden

Carl Allen was educated as a chemist during his college days at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He went on to serve his country as an anti-aircraft gunner in Germany during World War II, and as an artilleryman during the Korean conflict. He rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Carl's love of camellias goes back several decades. He was elected President of the American Camellia Society, beginning his term in 1993. Serving in local,

regional, and national camellia societies has been a way of life for Carl and his wife Katherine for many years.

An affinity for the camellia flower is clearly evident in Carl Allen's lovely landscape in the balmy coastal climate of Wilmington, North Carolina, and it now spills over into two greenhouses in his back yard. He is an accomplished camellia grower, both outdoors and indoors. He goes about growing camellias using the



Carl Allen in his garden with a nice specimen plant of the cultivar *Camellia japonica* 'Drama Girl Var.'



**Carl Allen with his granddaughter Kitty Allen attend a Camellia show in Charleston. (Shepherd)**

scientific methods that one would expect from a chemist.

There are two very important cardinal rules for outdoor camellia growing that Carl Allen considers a **MUST**. First, a camellia must be well drained. Secondly, the plant must not be planted too deeply. Carl uses post hole diggers to excavate a slender tubular hole, usually 4' to 5' deep, beneath his camellias. This drainage cavity is filled with pine bark. Carl feels that the hardpan soil under his landscape will not allow normal runoff of water, so this deep escape for excess water helps to keep his plants comfortably moist, but not excessively wet. He always

plants with the top of the rootball 1 1/2" to 2" above the existing soil level. This, too, provides for drainage.

When Carl digs a hole prior to planting a camellia, he discards all of the soil from the hole and replaces it with his own planting mixture. This consists of 1/3 composted pine bark, 1/3 dehydrated cow manure, and 1/3 sand. This mixture is under and around all camellias in the Allen landscape.

You might expect a trained chemist to rely heavily on soil testing to insure accuracy in fertilization of his landscape plants. You would be correct. Carl tests several



areas of his landscape annually. Fertilization and liming of the soil is done strictly according to the test results. After all, this is the only way to be absolutely sure that you are adding the proper amount of nutrients to the soil. Usually any good Azalea/Camellia fertilizer, preferably a time release product, will suffice. Carl has used 4-8-12, 6-12-12, and 15-5-10 analyses. He is especially fond of a time release fertilizer with about 1/3 quick release nitrogen, and 2/3 slow release.

Camellias are usually called "acid-loving" plants, and many noted growers call for soil pH read-

ings as low as 5.0-5.5. Carl prefers a higher pH, somewhere in the 6.2-6.5 range. He adds lime according to the soil test recommendations, using the above listed pH figures as his goal. He also follows the soil test recommendations for the addition of trace elements.

In addition to doing soil testing for the amendment of fertilizers and lime to his soil, Carl Allen usually has tissue testing done on the leaves of his camellias several times a year. He feels that this is very important because, while the soil test tells him what needs to be added to the soil to bring it up to optimum pH and



Camellia experts gather in Wilmington, including John Penny, Ed Powers, Carl Allen, and George Gerbing.

fertility levels, a leaf tissue test will reveal what the plant is actually taking up from the soil.

Carl Allen has most of the expected pests on camellias that grow in the Southeastern U.S.A. For scale he uses Cygon 2E and summer oil. For fire ants he uses a bait named Amdro, or Diazinon 5% granules. He is still looking for a good solution to his mole problem.

For the occasional outbreak of petal blight there is no known cure. And when dieback disease rears its ugly head, Carl recommends radical surgery to remove the affected tissue, or replacement of the entire plant. Two or three times a year he drenches his camellias with the fungicides Benlate and Captan, and this seems to help him maintain a relatively disease-free camellia collection.

Beware of planting camellias too near large pine trees. While Carl

agrees that camellias need 25% to 50% shade(no more than 50%), He feels that the larger trees sap too much water and nutrients away from his favorite ornamentals. So, don't get too close to the large trees, and remember that the little pines will grow quickly as well.

Carl Allen enjoys dabbling with camellia seedlings, and his favorite method of propagation is air-layering. His grafts are a common sight in his collection, cloaked in plastic covers and brown paper bags that are held aloft by wire supports. Sanitation has a high priority in this collection, and not a single fallen bloom can be seen on the ground to encourage petal blight. Carl takes his lifelong hobby of camellia growing seriously, and the results are evident in this delightful Southern garden.



**Gibbing a Camellia**

# 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 \$12.50 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 landscape 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  
4437 McKee Road  
Charlotte, N. C. 28270

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ *Check here if you want a membership card.*



# **Tropical Alaska**

**by Mildred Robertson**  
**Ninety-Six, South Carolina**

In September of 1995 while attending the ACCS convention in Myrtle Beach, a group of us gathered in one of our rooms after the events of the evening had concluded. We were talking, reminiscing about good times we had enjoyed. Eight of us had been on a cruise together about ten years before and we began re-living our experiences and remembering the fun time we had.

Someone suggested that maybe we should do it again. Another said if he were to take another cruise it would be to Alaska. At that point Tyler asked for a show of hands for anyone interested. Fourteen of the sixteen hands went up in the air.

Tyler and Buck had already been on a trip to Alaska, so they extolled us with the highlights of what we might expect. There was some discussion, but, basically I think most people thought we were just caught up in the heat of the moment and weren't really serious. But, no one should ever sell this group short.

We returned to our homes and by midweek travel agents had already been contacted, information obtained and package prices gathered

on various cruises. Telephone calls went back and forth among all the parties and we found that we had ten people who really wanted to make the trip. By November, reservations had been booked for the Brogdens, Hahns, Mizzells, Pinkertons and Robertsons.

You can imagine at all the Camellia shows there after what the topic of conversation was for the ladies. The men occasionally joined in, but mostly, as usual, they talked Camellias. Our trip was booked for the first of August, which seemed an eternity away. However, before we knew it the time was galloping by.

At the conclusion of the Camellia season we had several meetings to discuss plans and shop for "cruise clothes." (The journey can be almost as fun as the destination). Suddenly the time was here. All of us except Jim and Patsy spent the night with Elliott and Lawanda in Columbia since we were to catch a 6:50 flight the next morning.

Three thirty came awfully early the next morning, but we were all up and ready when Jim and Patsy joined us so that we could proceed



to the airport for the first leg of our adventure. We flew from Columbia via Charlotte and on to Seattle. From there we were bussed to Vancouver to board Carnival's *Tropicale* for a 5:30 sailing.

We were a bone tired group when we finally boarded the ship. Then we got our second burst of energy and were caught up in all the excitement, and of course, ready for the delicious meal which was served shortly after sailing. I think by the

time we had the meal we figured that we had eaten six times that day on the airplanes, buses, etc.

The first day was quite a time as we sailed and reached the port of Ketchikan early the following morning. Our short excursion was delightful. I was just amazed at the beautiful flowers blooming everywhere, most of which we actually grow at home. We were somewhat surprised to see large rhododendron bushes growing there. Upon learning that



Camellia people a'cruizin, include (L to R) the Mizzzell's, the Robertson's, the Brogden's, the Hahn's and the Pinkerton's.

the average low winter temperature there was only eighteen degrees, our men decided that Camellias would probably grow there also.

In Ketchikan we also saw salmon swimming in a creek. This was an experience for most of us. Our next stop was Juneau, where we enjoyed a historical tour and later a salmon bake along a stream where the salmon were returning to spawn. I have never had such delicious salmon. From there we went to Skagway, which reminded me more of what I thought was frontier Alaska. Then we were on to Sitka, where the Russian influence was evident. Each port was unique in its own way and I would be hard pressed to name a favorite.

Along the way we cruised the inland passage, where we viewed the most awesome scenery. The snowcapped mountains were absolutely majestic. The excitement of seeing the first ice flow is a memory that I will always retain, but I think my most memorable moment, without a doubt, is my first glimpse of Sawyer Glacier. Words fail me. It was indescribable. We all went upon the top deck and watched as the ship slowly approached and came so much closer than I had ever imagined it would.

We were lucky enough to see some calving at the glacier. I'm not sure how the term "calving" origi-

nated, but it was the breaking away of a portion of the glacier and then falling into the sea—a rare experience we were told. We saw other glaciers after this—the College Fjord glaciers and the great Mendenhall—all of which were spectacular. But, in my mind, the Sawyer will always be the most memorable because it was the first.

Our cruise ended in Seward and we were again transported by bus to the Anchorage Airport for the second leg of our trip, a four-day inland tour. We flew from Anchorage to Fairbanks where we spent two nights. We did some sightseeing there but we were also able to visit with our friends Pam and Wesley Alderman and daughter, Hailey, who have been residing there for a year now.

Bill and I also visited Jack Robertson, his wife Shauna, and daughter Fiona. They have lived in Fairbanks for four years. We were glad to see all of them, but I think they were all more glad to see familiar faces from the "lower forty-eight."

We left Fairbanks aboard the McKinley explorer for a trip to Denali Park, where we stayed overnight. Bill always had said he wanted to see a cold day in August, and when we arrived in Denali he did. It was about forty degrees, windy and raining. We couldn't wait to get to our cabins and



turn on the electric heat because all of us were chilled to the bone. We ventured out, despite the weather, for a nature and wildlife tour. Wildlife was not as abundant as we had hoped, but we were able to observe different species of plants and birds. We did see a few Caribou and a mountain goat.

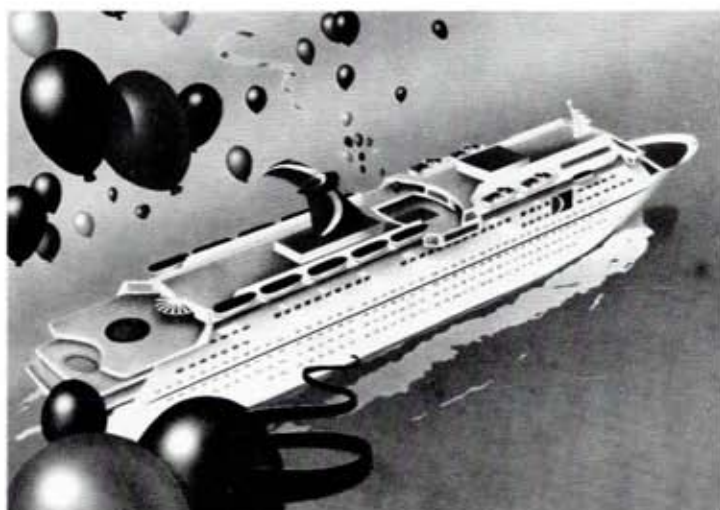
We returned from Denali, again by rail on the McKinley Explorer, to Anchorage for our flight home the next day. From Anchorage we flew to Salt Lake City, Atlanta, and then home to Columbia. Again, our day had begun around four in the morning. We arrived safely back in Columbia a very tired group, but in total agreement that this had been a fantastic trip. We had seen the grandest scenery nature has to offer and I would not have missed it for anything.

We also had some light moments which all will humorously remember. Will any of us forget

Tyler nuzzling her chin into a man's shoulder she thought was Buck while Buck watched in amusement from across the room as she discovered her mistake. Or, the lady who literally sat in Bill's lap as she attempted to see the stage. It was funny to us but not to him.

Throughout all of this trip, with all there was to see and do, can you believe our men still talked Camellias a large part of the time? They did. Camellias—these are the flowers that brought us all together and is responsible for the long and enduring friendships and deep devotion we all have for each other.

So, folks, the moral of this story is if you are attending a Camellia convention and at the end of the days' activities you are sitting around in a group talking, be very careful what you suggest. Otherwise, you may find yourself on a cruise ship headed to some exotic faraway port.



# Rules or Opinions

by Jim Pinkerton  
Lugoff, South Carolina

A couple of years have passed since I promised at least three people that I would write an article on judging Camellias. It seems unreal to me that the promise was made, since the request was made to get me to "tell it like it is" -- I know of no other way. If you have published articles on this subject, please read no more--you will not agree with most of my comments and I hope to offend no one.

The articles that have been published in the various Camellia publications on this subject have been well written and full of great information. My problem--you can't separate ACS rules from the opinions of the writer. Almost always the opinions lead you to believe that they are ACS rules. So often a remark is made that a fault disqualifies a flower. Show me in the rules where a flower, loose from the calyx, is disqualified. I have heard this many times. It is a fault and should be considered as such. Have you ever tried to transport an eight inch Hall's Pride seven hundred miles over the broken concrete of I-55 and keep it on the calyx?

So much for the rules and on to my OPINIONS on judging. Folks,

we are judging beauty and nothing else. The most beautiful flower wins. In my opinion you could pick out a sixteen year old girl from the crowd and she could pick out the best flower as well as most of us. When you consider the points for judging, it should be very obvious what makes the flower beautiful. I have been told that some of the judging schools are spending a lot of time on leaves. Forget it--we are not judging daylilies. Just remember that when you are passing down the final judging line, you are looking for the most beautiful flowers. Not whether they are typical for that cultivar, not whether they have a bug hole on the hidden leaf but what kind of beauty you see.

Now for a few opinions on judging teams. BEWARE OF THE JUDGES WITH NOMENCLATURE BOOKS. This remark is not all in jest. The more nomenclature books, the longer it takes to judge the show. The more often a judge looks up a flower, the more convinced I am that they should be judging other cultivars. This makes my point that protected growers should judge protected flowers and outside growers should judge outside





**Jim Pinkerton (center) at Santee with John Penny and incoming ACCS President Bill Hardwick.**

flowers. I have been through this several times and have found that an exhibitor will not place his reputation on the line with anything other than fair judging.

All team captains should ask the team to scan the assignment before the judging starts. Head table flowers are not the same in all shows. Sometimes there are many, sometimes not so many. Be very selective because too many flowers sent up creates a judging problem. I would suggest no more than eight flowers in each group.

I would encourage all shows to have a couple of outstanding judges as rovers. Only those who are afraid of their ability will object. I make mis-

takes, don't you? Please consider having teams vote together on the final vote. This helps on a fair vote. Never allow one person to vote for his own flower. California friends have told me that they have so many judges, it makes no difference. Who are you kidding? How would you like to be behind 20-0 on weighted average votes or 4-0 on regular and the voting has not started.

If a judge has a flower in a category, neither he nor his wife should put a ballot in the box. This includes an I on the ballot. This removes you from any question of honesty.

The most important person in a show is the one responsible for

placement of the flowers for the final judging. Flowers should be placed in two rows with the best on the front row. Nothing bothers me more than to see three rows of large flowers, ten flowers to a row and jammed together. California's idea of a team of outstanding judges sending the poorest back when the category exceeds eight to ten has a lot of merit. Just remember to place those two stud flowers side by side on the front row. The judges will get the best one.

Remember to never take issue with a judge at the site of the show. Get the Chairman of Judges to himself. After all, he invited the judge. This brings up the issue of how judges are invited. They receive invitations in this order: The chairman's friends, the big exhibitors, the host of the various Friday night parties, and if there are any openings left, the best judges. It has been this way since I started in 1955 and always will be.....so, make friends and show plenty of flowers.



**Jim discusses the finer points of Camellia culture at the Aiken Camellia show with Buddy Cawthon. (Shepherd)**

# Your Garden Needs A Second Look After Fran

By Roger Mercer  
The Fayetteville Observer-Times

**Dear Roger:** I have a lovely shade garden in my back yard. Unfortunately, I no longer have shade. Fran destroyed trees that provide the proper environment for my hostas, ferns, arums, hellebores, lily of the valley, rhododendrons, camellias, and summer plantings of caladiums and impatiens. What shall I do?--Many Readers.

**Dear Readers:** I have been listening to your comments on this problem for weeks and have given it much thought.

In my experience, gardens have as many levels of maturity as people. Young gardens have small trees and lots of sun. Sun-loving plantings of perennials, annuals and shrubs grow well. As the trees mature there is gradually more shade. And gradually, shade-loving plants become the dominant population as the sun-lovers have fewer and fewer spots where they get enough light.

I know many people who have lived in one place most of their adult lives. They had young gardens when they were young. As they grew older, and their tree plantings matured, so did their under-plantings. Daylily beds were turned over to hostas. Roses give way to

## YOUR GARDEN



by Roger Mercer  
The Fayetteville Observer

rhododendrons. Coping with heat became less and less a problem as shade increased year by year. Weeds became fewer as the light they required ceased to be available.

It never occurred to me that nature, in a space of 12 hours, could make a mature garden young again. Then came Fran. The hurricane ripped out 100-year-old trees, uprooted aged denizens, snapped the tops from tall pines and generally left a mess.

Many plants will adapt to the new conditions. Rhododendrons, for example, can withstand much sun, but many are yellow-leaved in too much sun. Some gold-leaved hostas look good most of the summer in up to six hours a day of full sun. But most hostas will burn in that much sunlight.

One option I would consider



would be moving some large favorite shade lovers, such as camellias, to the north side of the house and smaller perennials to the north sides of shrubs where they might get enough shade to survive. Many plantings will have to change. Or, you will have to provide the only quick-fix available--shading.

Shading is expensive to install, but less costly than planting large new trees. And far less costly than transplanting large, mature camellias and rhododendrons.

New plantings of tulip poplars will require at least 10 years to provide the kind of high shade that is best for shade gardens, whether you begin with 10-foot specimens or 3-footers.

Shading can be accomplished with structures called lath houses or frames covered with shade cloth. New man-made fibers are used in shade cloth. It is relatively inexpensive, requires little maintenance and lasts for many years. It is not as attractive as lath, which consists of strips of wood nailed over a frame and spaced to permit as much shade as you like, usually about 50 percent, in which case the spaces between the wood slats are equal to the thickness of the slats. Latticework is often used to provide shade, but thin lattice will not last as long as heavier slats. And, lattice requires more framing and more support when installed

Camellia ladies (L to R)  
Bonnie Serpas, Dot  
Evans, Lawanda  
Brogden, and Tyler  
Mizzell at Myrtle  
Beach (Shepherd)





horizontally than 1-inch or 2-inch slats. Shade cloth is available in less than 20 percent shading up to more than 70 percent.

Gardeners who have no shade left and insist on keeping some of their shade-loving collection will want to consider using lath or shade cloth for the 10 years or so that it will take to get trees to grow large enough to provide the desired level of shade.

I personally would convert much of a Fran-renewed garden to sun-loving plants and start the maturing process over. I would provide lath where there are large camellias and rhododendrons that I could not part with and would not want to move. I'd plant trees to

replace the lath as soon as they became large enough.

The fastest-growing and most desirable replacement trees for me would be tulip poplars. I planted one on the south side of my house in 1981, two years after I moved to Cumberland County. The tree is now the largest in my garden. It is larger than mature pines that were more than 30 years old when I arrived. And the shade it provides is far more cooling than pine shade.

The increased sunlight would allow me to increase the diversity of my plantings. And so I would return to some of the plants that I enjoyed years ago that I could no longer grow. After all, most of what nature does is a mixed blessing.



**Lew Fetterman adjusts, Buck Mizzell peers, Bill Shepherd supervises, and Ann McKinnon smiles at the Charleston Show in the Citadel Mall. (Shepherd)**

# Mid-Carolina Camellia Society

Fall Show--South Carolina State Fair

October 5, 1996--316 Blooms

## Category Open

Best Japonica Very Large	<b>Tiffany</b>	Lib Scott
Best Japonica VL-Runnerup	<b>Carter's Sunburst</b>	Lib Scott
Best Japonica Medium	<b>Dawn's Early Light</b>	Parker Connor
Best Japonica Med.-Runnerup	<b>Daikagura</b>	Lib Scott
Best Japonica Small	<b>Pink Pearl</b>	Lib Scott
Best Japonica Small--Runnerup	<b>Nuccio's Red</b>	Parker Connor
Best Miniature	<b>Fircone Var.</b>	Parker Connor

## Category--Protected

Best Japonica Very Large	<b>Tick Tock Speckled</b>	Annabelle & Lew Fetterman
Best Japonica VL--Runnerup	<b>Marie Bracey</b>	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Best Japonica Medium	<b>Doris Ellis</b>	Mack & Ann McKinnon
Best Reticulata--Protected	<b>Harold Paige</b>	Mack & Ann McKinnon
Best Reticulata Runnerup	<b>Dr. Clifford Parks Var.</b>	Annabelle & Lew Fetterman
Best Hybrid--Open	<b>Charlean Var.</b>	Lib Scott
Best Sasanqua	<b>Sparkling Burgundy</b>	Dr. Carter Bays
Best White Bloom	<b>Lucy Stewart</b>	Parker Connor
Best Novice Bloom	<b>Daikagura</b>	E.B. Goodlett, Jr.
Gold Certificate--Open	Parker Connor	
Silver Certificate--Open	Lib Scott	

Submitted by Show Chairman Jim Pinkerton

## Editor's Column

by Jim Darden  
Clinton, North Carolina

What a year!!! Since the last edition our world here in North Carolina seems to have changed so much. First there was hurricane Bertha. We had one pine tree down on our house, puncturing the roof in four places, with marginal water damage inside. We thought that was pretty bad, but we had survived without significant damage to people, nursery, greenhouses, etc.

But then, about a month later, here came hurricane Fran. This time we took a direct hit. Two trees jolted us out of bed in the middle of the night, providing lots of water in the attic and daylight through the roof the next morning as proof of the great storm's might.

This hurricane didn't come and go, it came and stayed--all night long. We had 110 m.p.h. winds and nothing was spared. My greenhouses at the college and nursery were damaged, there were dozens of trees down in the nursery, and my Camellia greenhouse was crushed.

I could only think of the article I wrote several years ago about my Camellia friends in Charleston. I reported that story in this journal, but a reporter who doesn't actually



go through a catastrophe with his subjects can never feel their pain and loss. This time I felt all of that.

The morning after I arose after a frightful night and walked out into the street in front of our house at first light. Such an eerie feeling I have never had before, and don't care to endure again.

About a dozen of my neighbors and I just stood in the middle of the street and gazed around us at the destruction. All of the huge pines, which had graced such a lovely neighborhood hours earlier, were down on the houses, power lines, roadways, greenhouses, etc. Huge root systems now stood



perpendicular to the earth. We just stood there, devastated.

Later in the day, as reality set upon us, my son, Jay, and I made our way to the nursery to get our landscape truck and trailer, loaded our tractor with front end loader aboard, and headed back to the neighborhood. We spent the day lifting trees off the houses in our immediate area, pushing trees to the sides of the streets, and then loading debris on the trailer and taking it away. We managed to clear most of the street on which we live.

One of the most discouraging parts of the experience was the loss of trees behind our house. Several hundred feet of forest, with great pine trees, had previously separated us from Highway 24. It was a nice buffer from the noise and commotion of this major road. Now

all of the trees were down and we could clearly see and hear the emergency vehicles and trucks as they passed back and forth.

Now it is three months later and we are still digging out. My son's professor at N. C. State University told his class that we will continue to see damage and dying plants for the next 2-3 years. In other words, this thing is not over yet.

We are still removing downed trees at the nursery, but about a dozen remain on top of thousands of azaleas. The home camellia greenhouse has been rebuilt, and yes, there will be blooms this winter. And, there will be azalea blooms this spring and life will proceed. But, Bertha and Fran will go down in history, along with Hugo and Hazel, as real catastrophes. We will never forget them.



Pine trees from two hurricanes smash through the Editor's Camellia greenhouse in Clinton, North Carolina.

# A Proposal For Reticulata Hybrid & Hybrid Garden

by Dr. Herbert Racoff  
Columbia, South Carolina

Request the Governing Board of the American Camellia Society to authorize the establishment of a Reticulata Hybrid and Hybrid garden at Massee Lane. The ACS Horticulturist will be in charge of this garden. Currently, little is known about the cold hardiness of these plants. Many viewers at camellia

shows inquire as to whether cultivars they see at shows can be grown unprotected. Except for a few varieties, it is not possible to give them an answer, as to the cold hardiness, which can be backed up with proof. The winters at Massee Lane are cold enough to give us this information.



Dr. Herb Racoff (center) is joined at the Aiken Show by Marie Dahlen, Ed Powers, and John Newsome. (Shepherd)

At the present time the only suitable location available is roughly a 50' x 150' area located at the southern end of what is called the "Seedlings." Mrs. Hotchkiss has been having this area cleared so that it could be ready for planting this fall. This area is so hemmed in that there is no room for expansion. However, on the eastern side there is an open field which is to be part of the Environmental Center. The Chairman of the Environmental Committee has agreed to allow about one acre of this field to be a part of the proposed Reticulata Hybrid & Hybrid Garden. It is planned

to plant pines and possibly fast growing deciduous trees, *Polonelongata*, in this field. There is an anonymous donor who will underwrite the cost of an irrigation system and the planting of the trees. Hopefully, the ACS Membership will donate named cultivars and understock. The ACS Development Fund will be asked to provide \$1000.00 to be available for plants, fungicides, fertilizers, etc.

Submitted by:  
Herbert Racoff  
Director at Large  
Atlantic Coast Camellia Society



Partying hard at Santee are Bobby Stubenrauch, Geary Serpas, and Bill Robertson.



# UPCOMING ATLANTIC COAST SHOW DATES

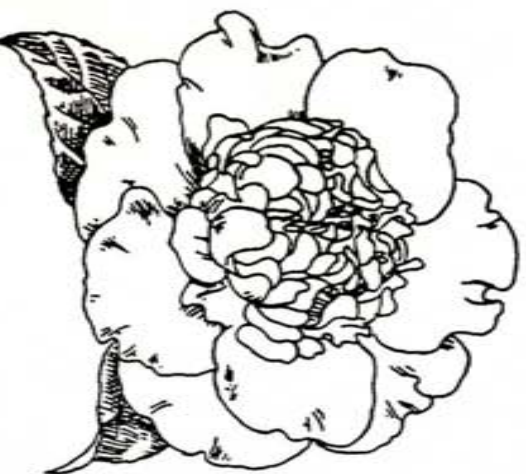
- January 4-5: Gainesville Camellia Club  
The Oaks Mall  
Gainesville, Florida
- January 11-12: Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee  
Tallahassee Mall  
Tallahassee, Florida
- January 18-19: Aiken Camellia Club  
Aiken Mall  
Aiken, South Carolina
- January 25: Thomasville Garden Club  
Thomasville Garden Center  
Thomasville, Georgia
- January 25: Coastal Carolina Camellia Society  
Citadel Mall  
Charleston, South Carolina
- February 1-2: Charlotte Camellia Society  
Carolina Place Mall  
Pineville, North Carolina
- February 8-9: Mid-Carolina Camellia Society  
Columbia Mall  
Columbia, South Carolina
- February 15-16: Tidewater Camellia Club  
Independence Mall  
Wilmington, North Carolina
- February 21-22: North Georgia Camellia Society  
Atlanta Botanical Gardens  
Atlanta, Georgia
- March 1-2: Fayetteville Camellia Club  
Cross Creek Mall  
Fayetteville, North Carolina
- March 8-9: Piedmont Camellia Club  
Holly Hill Mall  
Burlington, North Carolina
- April 5: Virginia Camellia Society  
Chesapeake Square Mall  
Chesapeake, Virginia

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

*Jim Darden, Editor*

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