Atlantic Coast Camellias

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MARY McLAURIN IN HER CAMELLIA GARDEN

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COVER PHOTO

Cover Photo: Mary McLaurin inspects a bloom on one of her 300+ specimen Camellias in Bath, North Carolina.

IN THIS ISSUE

Finer Treasure Than Pirate's Gold

by Jim Darden
Clinton, North Carolina

They say that you meet the nicest people in Camellia circles. I've always found that to be true, and it was especially true earlier this fall for Mary Nell and me. I had been talking to a good friend, Clay Carter, whom I met years ago when he was a horticulture instructor at Beaufort Community College in Washington, N. C. Clay knew of my love for Camellias, having invited me last year to present a program on this great plant at a spring gardeners symposium at his college. He told me about "one of the nicest ladies I know" who has a fabulous Camellia garden. But, the garden, he said, is facing a dilemma.

Her name is Mrs. Mary McLaurin, and she lived on her beautiful estate on the banks of the Pamlico River about a mile upstream from North Carolina's oldest town—"Bath". Mary and her husband James "Mac" McLaurin had lived here since 1949. The venue is magnificent, with the McLaurin's land rising above the wide river on its north bank. But, Mary lost Mac several years ago and, now in her eighties, she has moved into Washington to be with relatives.

It is sad that Mary is only able to visit her gardens on weedends. Sadder still is the fact that the entire estate has been purchased by PCS (Phosphate Canada Saskatchewan), a company which mines phosphates for fertilizer at a nearby stripmine. Indeed, one can look across the river and at Aurora, about five miles distant, clearly see a massive strip mine.

Mary McLaurin, center, stands before a magnificent Camellia Japonica 'Magnoliaeflora' with Clay Carter (left), Beaufort Community College, and Jim Darden (right) Sampson Community College. (Darden)

While the company has told Mary that the north side of the river will not be strip mined, there will be no effort made to save any ornamental collection on the property.

When I heard of the demise of "Miss" Mary's garden, which is home to more than 300 massive Camellia specimens, I joined forces with Clay and we arranged a visit. Mary Nell and I chose a beautiful September Sunday and drove three hours to Washington, where we met Clay. He piloted us the remaining 16 miles into the low country near Bath, where we turned off of the narrow two lane road at a small sign which told us we had arrived at "Secota."

The name Secota was chosen by Mary and Mac McLaurin because of its great historical significance in the region. When John White landed at Roanoke Island in 1587 with 119 colonists his mission was to establish a permanent English colony on the Chesapeake Bay for Sir Walter Raleigh. He sailed to England for supplies, only to be delayed because of the war with Spain, and upon returning in 1590 he found nothing left of the colony except the word "Croatoan" carved on a tree.

Perhaps he sailed across the Pamlico Sound and up the Pamlico River in search of the Lost Colony, or perhaps he was looking for the Chesapeake Bay. Whatever the reason, John White noted in his writings that he found an Indian village named "Secota" on the banks of a creek where it met the Pamlico River. That creek is on, or very near, Mary McLaurin's land.

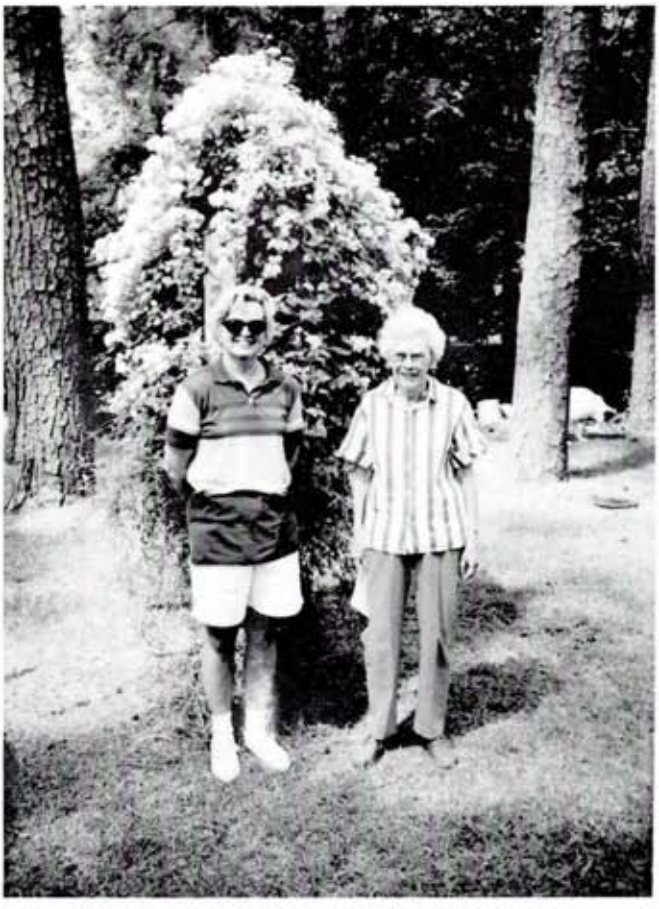
Also of great historical significance is the fact that less than a mile from Mary's garden is the site of the plantation home of Gov. Eden, who welcomed Blackbeard the Pirate into safe haven in Bath in 1717, and possibly was in collaboration with him. Clay Carter, my friend who guided us on this trip, is descended from one of Blackbeard's crewmen named Spencer, who probably came with Blackbeard when the pirate built a home in Bath.

So, Mac and Mary McLaurin settled on this wonderful spot in the late 1940's and made their home. Mary remembered a childhood neighbor, a Mrs. Tripp, who had a magnificent camellia in Washington named Compte de Paris. Today, some 70 years later, she still remembers its fabulous flowers. Even at ten year of age, when she saw that Compte de Paris, she was hooked. Soon after settling at Secota she began her own Camellia collection.

One of Mary's childhood schoolmates in Washington was Churchill Bragaw, whose name graces a dormitory at N. C. State University where my son lived more than 40 years later. Mr. Bragaw started a nursery at Orton Plantation while still a student at N. C. State. Unfortunately, he lost his life in Italy in World War II, but his nursery remained at Orton after the war.

Mary McLaurin visited the nursery at Orton and purchased "one of every Camellia variety available" for the then high price of $1.00 each. The horticulturist at Orton taught Mary the art of grafting, and she began taking cuttings everywhere she went. Her garden grew quickly. In addition to the Camellias, Mary planted azaleas, fatshederas, figs, acuba, ardisia, oleander and many more fine ornamentals.

But is was the Camellias that really



Mary Nell Darden and Mary McLaurin enjoy the flowers at 'Secota'.

(Darden)

caught her fancy. Mary planted sasanquas and early blooming japonicas, such as Margaret Radcliffe, to brighten the garden in the fall. She planted late varieties, such as Pink Champagne, to complement the azaleas in the spring. Over the years she planted nearly 300 fine japonicas in what grew into a great Camellia garden.

Mary's collection seems to have all the great varieties, plus some I've not seen before. There are several from the Elegans family, as well as the Betty Sheffields. Three Ville de Nantes specimens towered over my head. Other tags carried names such as Victory White, Imura, Donckelarri, Dr. Burnside, and Julia France. The Tomorrow family is well represented, along with Lallarook, Edwin Folk, and Vulcan. I asked if the great large anemone French Imperator, introduced to me years ago by Parker Connor, was present, and Mary led me to a specimen well over my head.

Today these Camellias are huge and magnificent, but tragically the loggers have already been and, without regard for the treasures growing beneath the pines, they have taken the timber from half of the garden with heavy equipment. Most of the Camellias remain upright in the logged area, but many show signs of damage from the falling trees or sun scald from growing naked in last summer's intense heat. Those in the half of the garden still protected by trees are pristine.

Perhaps providence prevails and a horticultural catastrophe can be averted in Mary McLaurin's garden. At about the same time I learned of the McLaurin garden I was also contacted by Greg Nace, Director of the Cape Fear Botanical Garden in Fayetteville. I was on the Charter Board of Directors several years ago which selected a site for the garden on a beautiful bluff over the Cape Fear River at its confluence with Cross Creek.

The confluence of these two waterways was the location of Campbelltown, the old Scottish settlement where Gaelic was spoken in the late 1700's. My Scottish Buchanan and McNeil ancestors passed the site on their way up the river to settle at Buckhorn. Greg Nace knew of my involvement in horticulture at Sampson Community College and with the Fayetteville Camellia Club, so he asked if I would be interested in designing a Camellia garden for the Cape Fear Botanical Garden. I gladly agreed, and over the past year my students and I have studied and drawn preliminary sketches of a Camellia garden on a five acre tract in the CFBG.

Greg has since managed to have the area cleaned and the pines thinned, so it certainly has the potential to become a fine Camellia garden. The only problem would be finding a large number of containerized Camellias and waiting decades for them to become mature. Enter Mary McLaurin.

On behalf of the Cape Fear Botanical Garden and the Fayetteville Camellia Club I have contacted Miss Mary and asked if some of her Camellias could be moved to Fayetteville. She was delighted to offer the entire collection, especially so since they soon could be lost to the loggers. Miss Mary indicated that she had hoped for years that some method of saving the Camellias would emerge, but she had feared the worst for her beloved collection.

Greg Nace has contacted a large landscaper in Fayetteville, who has offerred the use of his hydraulic tree diggers to move the plants. Greg is currently attempting to raise the funds that will be required to rent trucks and cover other expenses involved in moving over 100 tree-sized Camellias. Anyone interested in helping to preserve this treasure can contact Greg Nace at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden, (910) 486-0221.

I certainly hope that this project will come to pass this winter. It will bring a fine collection of mature Camellias to Fayetteville, where everyone in eastern North Carolina, or travelers on Interstate-95, can enjoy the beauty of Camellias.

My personal goal is to help build a great Camellia garden comparable to the one lost at nearby Laurel Lake Gardens and Nursery, where a 1984 tornado destroyed a two-mile Camellia walk featuring more than 600 huge Camellia plants. Another great benefit of this project is the fact that my students at Sampson Community College will be able to see the moving of the plants, and thereby be exposed to high level technology in tree moving that otherwise we would not be able to demonstrate for them on a hands-on basis.

Many thanks go to Mary McLaurin. Clay Carter was right, she is one of the nicest ladies I have ever met. And, I was right as well. You meet the finest people when you are among Camellia lovers.

HE MADE A DIFFERENCE

by Bob Spear, Sports Editor
The State
Columbia, South Carolina

submitted by Dr. Herb Racoff
Columbia, South Carolina

He played high school football with a superman named Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice and caught the winning touchdown pass in the Carolina—Clemson game. He could hit a baseball pretty well and coached high-powered prep teams. He served in the Marines, directed the South Carolina High School League, officiated ACC basketball and raised winning Camellias.

We remember Jim Pinkerton for those stepping stones along life's highway. We should remember him for more. In all he did, he competed. He competed hard. But he could laugh, too.

"Fiery" might have been part of his name—on the athletic field, in those behind-closed-doors Hearts games, in growing his flowers. He demanded the best from himself and from his

Jim Pinkerton views one of his fabulous show blooms in the 1997 Wilmington Show.

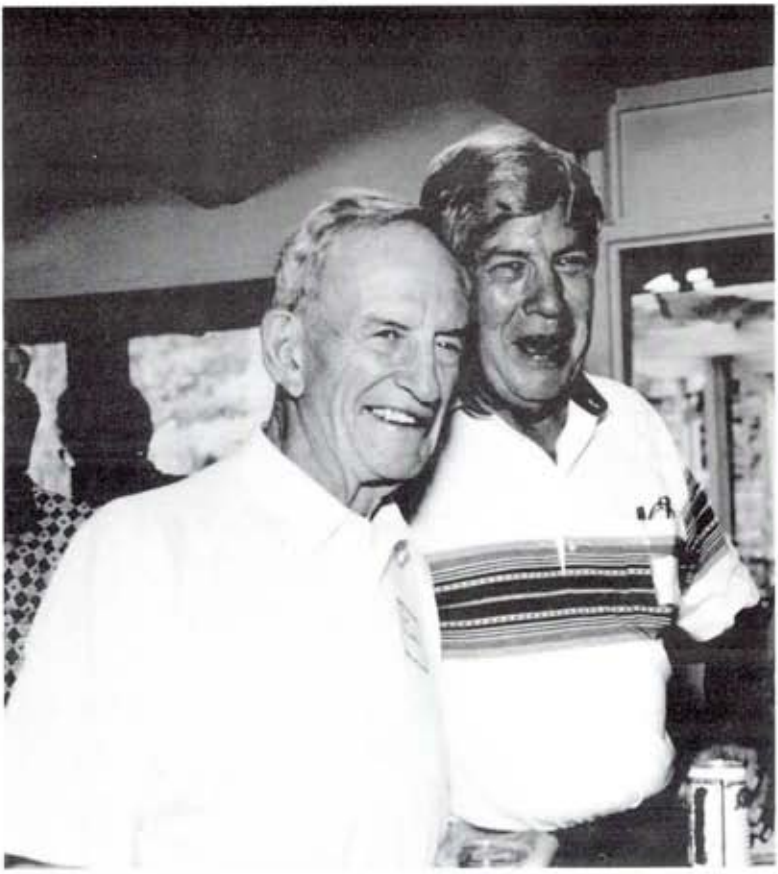
(Darden)

athletes. Jim Pinkerton made a difference. His breed is so rare.

Jim Pinkerton died Sunday, but the lessons of life he taught South Carolina youngsters in his more than three decades in education will endure in the generations that felt his guiding hand. Velvet-glove soft or iron-fist hard, he had a special gift of delivering his message.

He coached at Kingstree, Columbia, and A. C. Flora high schools. His 1958 Columbia squad ranked best in the state, and he built the Flora program from the start. Friends, players and rivals gathered with Pinkerton not long ago to share memories of the way they were. Tales of yesterday, some no doubt embellished by the passing years, flowed freely. So did the tears.

They talked about the games—Pinkerton's Flora teams against Mooney Player's Lower Richlands squads and the
Eau Claire powerhouses of the Baker-



Jim Pinkerton whoops it up with camellia buddy Bill Robertson at last year's Gulf Coast Camellia Meeting.

(Hahn)

Robertson era. They laughed about big plays and particular moments. Mostly, they agreed, they have been blessed by receiving his wise counsel.

Pinkerton coached at Flora in the long-ago days that I covered high school sports. We swapped lies about Marine Corps days and needled each other regularly on any number of topics. He chaffed at being labeled "Dean's Boy" after Dean Smith's North Carolina basketball team won a string of games he officiated. "His teams win no matter who the referee is," Pinkerton shot back.

I remember a Flora football game against old Dentsville High. He vowed to curb his impetuosity on the sidelines and would watch from the top of the press box. His pledge lasted one mistake; he practically flew to the field to make his point. Be sure the player did not make that mistake again.

Tough, abrasive and excitable, his style might be out of date in this era of political correctness. That's too bad. He reached a plateau reserved for the special ones, and we should be thankful he passed this way.

JIM PINKERTON
1924 - 1997

MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

South Carolina State Fair Camellia Show
Columbia, South Carolina
October 3-4, 1997

submitted by Dr. Herbert Racoff
Columbia, South Carolina

JAPONICAS—OPEN:

Best Large-Very Large	**Nuccio's Pink Lace**	Parker Connor Edisto Island, S. C.
Runner-Up	**Showtime**	Mrs. H. C. Scott
Best Medium	**Feathery Touch**	Parker Connor Edisto Island, S. C.
Runner-Up	**Ville de Nantes**	Mrs. H. C. Scott
Best Small	**Willamina**	Rupert Drews Charleston, S. C.
Runner-Up	**Pink Pearl**	Mrs. H. C. Scott
Best Miniature	**Bon Bon Red Var.**	RupertDrews Charleston, S. C.
Best White Bloom	**Ivory Tower**	Parker Connon Edisto Island, S. C.

JAPONICAS—PROTECTED:

Best Large-Very Large	**Early Woodville Red**	Dr. Herbert Racoff Columbia, S. C.
Runner-Up	**Carter's Sunburst Pink**	Mack & Ann McKinnon Columbia, S. C.
Best Medium	**Betty Sheffield Supreme**	Mack & Ann McKinnon Columbia, S. C.
Best Small	**Grace Albritton Starfire**	Mack & Ann McKinnon Columbia, S. C.
Runner-Up	**Kiku Togi Var.**	Bill Hardwick Reynolds, Georgia
Best Reticulata Open	**Frank Houser Var.**	Rupert Drews Charleston, S. C.
Best Reticulata Protected	**Betty Ridley**	Bill & Mildred Robertson Ninety-Six, S. C.
Best Hybrid Protected	**Debbie**	Bill & Mildred Robertson Ninety-Six, S. C.
Best Sasanqua or Species	**Ko-Gyoku**	Dr. Herbert Racoff Columbia, S. C.
Gold Certificate—Open		Parker Connor Edisto Island, S. C.
Silver Certificate—Open		Rupert Drews Charleston, S. C.

CAMELLIA AIR LAYERING

by Sil Caruso and Jim Darden
Clinton, North Carolina

Sil Caruso, my former high school principal at Clinton High School and now an avid Camellia grower in his retirement, presented a program to the Fayetteville Camellia Club last January on the topic of Air Layering. Using a set of photographs that I made of his techniques over a six month period, Sil did a fine job of explaining this interesting method of woody plant propagation to about 50 of our club members.

In the Spring, 1996, issue of this journal, Sil described many of his air layering secrets in an article entitled "Eureka!."In his presentation to the Fayetteville club he demonstrated his techniques. I asked Sil and his wife, Geraldine, to record the questions posed by the audience in hopes of further refining the art of air layering. This article is our effort to bring that information to you. Sil and I will comment on each stage of the process.

Q: What size Camellia branch is best for air layering?

Photo #1—A suitable Camellia branch for air layering.

Sil: I have used banches from 1/4" to 3/4" inches in diameter. I prefer 1/2" inch limbs which are mature enough to set flower buds.

Jim: The fact that you can air layer a limb consisting of 1-3 year old wood means that an air layered Camellia is

Photo #1

usually years ahead of a tip cutting propagate. This certainly gives you a mature plant sooner, and often bloom buds emerge the very first year. I remember Carl Allen bringing a nice 'Dr. Clifford Parks' plant in a one-gallon pot to the Wilson Camellia Show that Joe Austin and I chaired several years ago. The plant was air layered the previous March, and then severed and potted in July. Six months later is had a fine 7" bloom which was wide open.

Photo #2—Cutting the stem for air layering.

Q: Is is necessary to remove all of the cambium (green layer)?

Sil:Yes! Since the cambium produces both the xylem (wood) and the phloem (outer layer), all of the cambium must be removed to prevent healing without root production.

Jim: You must completely girdle the stem, cutting away all tissue along about one inch of stem. This includes the bark, green cambium, and everything down to the white wood. Remember, the active xylem cells remaining in the woody tissue will still function to bring water and nutrients up from the roots and deliver these vital materials to the leaves and stem tissue beyond the air layer.

Q? When do you air layer Camellias?

Photo #3—Sheet sphagnum peat moss being applied to the wound in March.

Sil: I air layer in March. This allows time for roots to form by July.

Jim: Some growers use sheet sphagnum peat moss, others use regular peat moss. I have used both with good results. The important thing is to keep the medium barely moist so that new roots will find a welcome medium for growth and will not dry out. March is the best time for this procedure, since this is just before

Photo #2

Photo #3

Photo #4

the sap rises. The rising sugar and chemicals will foster shoot growth and root production at the wound. The air layer needs to be in place when this sap begins its upward movement. So, late February or March is the ideal time.

Q? What do you use to cover the air layer while it is rooting?

Photo #4—Sil has used aluminum foil to cover this air layer on a 'Lady Clare' camellia.

Sil: I use aluminum foil to wrap the air layer. It is pinched lightly at both ends, allowing rain water to enter the top and moisten the peat moss, while allowing excess water to drain out at the bottom.

Jim: Some growers will also line the inside of the aluminum foil with a plastic bag or Saran Wrap. This will help keep the peat moss moist, expecially if you have problems with birds pecking holes in the foil, thus allowing too much water to evaporate.

Q? When do you uncover the new root system?

Photo #5—Roots from the wounded stem have grown into the peat moss.

Sil: I check the bulge beginning in late spring to see if I can detect root tissue by feel. I do not remove the foil covering, however, until July. There is usually a good root mass by then.

Jim: As the air layered branch grows during the spring it assimilates sugar, growth hormones, and many other organic chemicals. These migrate downward through the phloem until they reach the wound. If the phloem is completely removed at the wound, then these chemicals can descend no farther. They mass at that point and, in such high concentrations, the growth hormones cause the primordial root cells to initiate growth. You can add your own growth hormone to accelerate this process. The root primordial cells

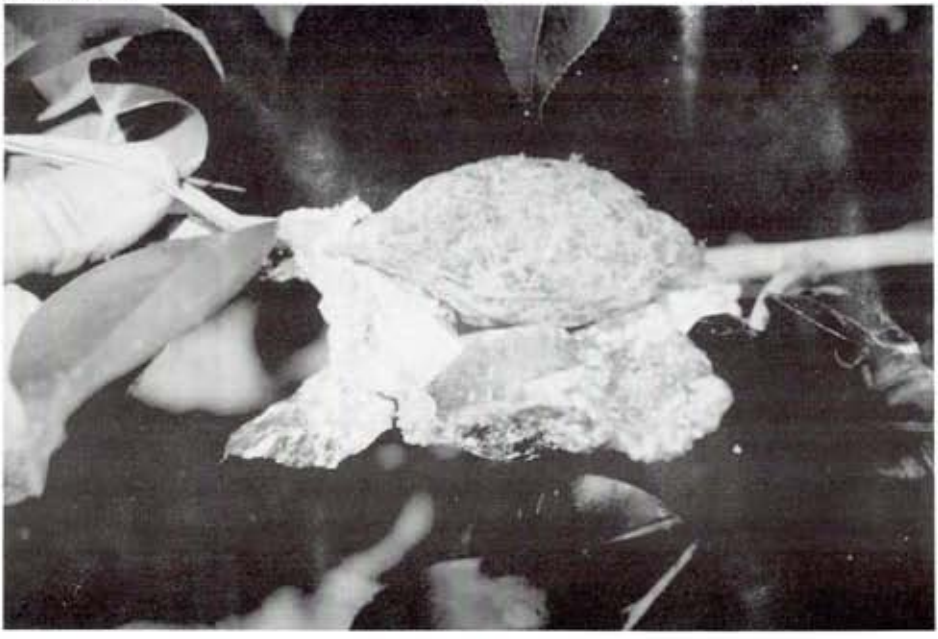


Photo #5

become root initials, which grow until they break through the bark and finally become new roots.

Q? When do you pot the air layer?

Photo #6—The severed air layer is potted into a 2or 3 gallon container.

Sil: I pot the new plant in July. This will allow sufficient time for the new root system to expand into the medium by early November.

Jim: Remember, the new root system is disproportionate to the plant, much smaller than such a plant requires. After potting the plant you will need to grow it in the shade and keep it moist. Carl Allen even used a mist system over his newly potted air layers for several weeks so they would not wilt while developing a larger root system.

Q? When do you permanently plant the new Camellia into the ground?

Sil: I do my permanent planting in early November. This allows the roots to stabilize by mid-winter.

Jim: It is fine to leave the Camellia in the pot until the next year if it takes that long for the new root system to become mature and reach the sides of the container. Don't plant into the landscape until the root system is mature and able

Photo #6

to support the upper portion of the plant.

Q? Can a drip system be used for watering the air layer in the pot from July until November?

Sil: No! Keeping the foliage moist is crucial. Since I do not have a greenhouse, I keep a water hose supply handy. Depending on the number of air layers I have, I use a watering can or hose. By keeping water near, I can wet the leaves whenever they become dry, sometimes several times a day on hot summer days.

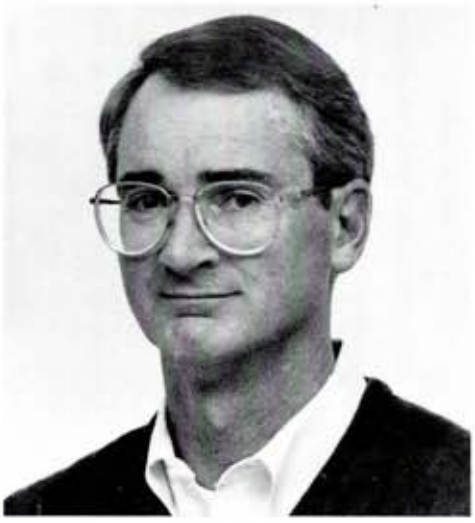
Jim: Sil Caruso has hundreds of air layers growing on Camellia branches in several localities in southeastern North Carolina. He has planted over 100 new Camellia varieties in his garden over the last three years thanks to the procedure of air layering. Nearly all of these are mature plants which flower the first year in the landscape. If you want an inexpensive and interesting way to collect Camellias and have fun, why not consider air layering?

* *

Fred and Clara Hahn with a winning show bloom in Wilmington.

Editor's Column

by Jim Darden
Clinton, North Carolina



Contrary to rumor, I am still alive and kicking. No, I have not broken my back (as rumor has it). Nor have I broken my leg. I did fall off of a short step ladder while covering a greenhouse and twisted my knee.

Has anyone noticed that, as we grow older, we are not as limber as we used to be? I have twisted knees before much more severely than this time. In fact, last year while skiing I fell several times and really should have injured myself. But, the old bod endured and I kept on ticking.

Not this time, however. Just a slight bend, loud "pop," and my MCL was strained and ACL broken. I am scheduled for the arthroscope December 30, so January will be down time for me. I just hope this issue of the journal is mailed by then. Don't worry though, you will probably see me prowling around several Camellia shows with my camera in February and March.

I wish I did not have to report to you that several of our Camellia friends have passed away since the last issue of this journal. First there was Carl Allen, who toured me through his Camellia garden just weeks before his passing with no hint of health problems. Then Jim Pinkerton, one of the very best Camellia growers in the country. I have done articles honoring each of these men in recent issues, (Carl in the Spring, 1997 issue, and Jim in the summer, 1996 issue), and both will be sorely missed.

But the sad news does not end there. Just this past weekend I learned of the passing of Louise Mayo, one of Fayetteville's best Camellia growers for decades. And then Bill Kemp in Goldsboro, who I never had the pleasure of meeting, but who was a leader in our society some years ago.

We will all miss these fine Camellia friends. I certainly hope that the next Editor's Column will bring better news.

Jim

SAY IT AIN'T SO, MOE!!!

by Jim Darden

Clinton, North Carolina

We are all periodically asked questions like, "How do I get my Camellias to bloom better?," or, "My Camellia doesn't ever bloom. What can I do?' After the standard answers suggesting phosphorus fertilizer or better winter protection, I sometimes run completely out of good answers.

Moe Kotler, however, has things figured out pretty well. Moe, a member of the Tidewater Camellia Club in Wilmington, N. C., planted the Camellia pictured below nine years ago. It never bloomed. Let me repeat that. It NEVER bloomed. Moe was in a quandary. What could he do to make his favorite plant perform?

Then the answer came out of the wild blue. Or, more accurately, out of the Atlantic Ocean. Two hurricanes came roaring through Wilmington, Fran and Bertha, and virtually destroyed Moe's landscape. Pine trees came crashing through his fence and smashed into the dormant, uncooperative Camellia, forcing it to the ground.

Well, believe it or not, the florally challenged Camellia was jolted from its slumber and that very winter it bloomed as if trying to make up for lost time. So, the next time a novice Camellia grower repeats the worn out question above, keep a straight face and advise them to order up a good category 4 hurricane, let it smash your house, landscape, and Camellias, and see what happens. Moe says he guarantees blooms by the pound.

Moe Kotler and the Wayward Camellia

(Kotler)

MOVING LARGE CAMELLIAS

by Jay Darden
Horticulture Extension Specialist
North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
Johnston County, North Carolina

(Editor's Note: My son Jay (James B. Darden IV) has graduated from N. C. State University and is now a Horticulturist with the N. C. Extension Service in nearby Smithfield. He recently learned of the Mary McLaurin project (see article in this issue) and wanted to help. He sent a blanket E-Mail to his fellow Extension horticulturists statewide, and got some interesting responses that might help us in moving Camellias. Here is some of the packet he sent me.)

I sent an E-Mail to all the Horticulture agents in North Carolina. I have one address that I can type in which goes to all Horticulture agents. Here is the message sent out. "I have been made aware of a situation where several hundred large camellias have been donated by an individual to a public garden. The sizes vary from head high to 15'-20', 4"-8" caliper. If the plants are going to be saved they must be moved this year. They do not have the option of root pruning this year and transplanting next year. Does anyone have any experience moving large Camellias, and if so, do you have any suggestions?"

I printed all the responses that I received. Some of the information I got back was not so good. The best thing I got from it was that they CAN BE transplanted. No one said that it couldn't be done. Here are some of the responses.

1. My gut feeling is February would be the best month to try this. I recommend using a root stimulator product. We had to use this stuff in Florida all the time. I thought it was like a snake oil, but I am a firm believer now. The 'home owner' brand I prefer is Fertilome, which costs about $16.00 a gallon. I am telling you, this stuff does miracles in getting the right micro-nutrients to it. Good luck.
Karen P. Ferrell, Davie County, N. C.

2. I have moved some rather large Camellia japonicas when I was doing landscape installations in New Bern, several at less-than-ideal times. I never lost any of them, so it seems that they tolerate the insult reasonably well. The plants you speak of are

pretty massive, so, just by virtue of the weight of the rootballs, they need to be moved with a mechanical spade. I think you can expect success if the plants are kept well watered during the re-establishment period. I assume Camellia sasanqua would perform similarly, but I have only moved those up to about 4 feet or so. Al Hight, Mecklenburg County, N. C.

3. I would put in a call to a fellow named Ray Bond. He has become the Camellia "guru" for the Wake County Mens Garden Club. These guys are quite knowledgeable. The editor of their newsletter is Ed Alston @ (919) 782-7669. He can put you in touch with Ray. Ann Clapp, Master Gardener, is another Camellia officianado @ (919) 787-9852. Carl A. Matyac, Wake County, N.C.

4. Look around and see if you can find a copy of "The Tree and Shrub Transplanting Manual." For what its worth, here is my standard pitch. It's better to dig lateral roots than to try and dig a hole to China. Move the shrub to its new location as soon as possible. Carry the rootball, not the trunk of the plant. They will probably need to use chains and a hoist of some type. Keep the rootball moist and shaded during the transport. They might want to wrap them in wet burlap. Paul G. McKenzie, Harnett County, N.C.

5. While I haven't had any experience moving Camellias of that size, I have been involved in moving some rather large specimen plants. Once we dug a Japanese Maple with a 15" caliper. We dug the tree with a backhoe and had it loaded on a lowboy trailer by a trackloader. The thing had a 12 foot root ball and was 25 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Back to your Camellias. All small enough to move with conventional equipment if some one has tree spades in your area. A 36" to 48" spade for the smaller trees (4"-5" caliper) should work with wire baskets. Use a Big John (brand name) type of spade for the bigger ones with 72" to 96" spades. I'm not sure who might have such equipment in your area. The Arboretum may want to call around to see if some one would rent the equipment. The DOT in the Raleigh area had a large spade on a truck. Clifford Ruth, Henderson, N. C.

(Editor's note: It is really heartening to see such a good and immediate response from our fine young extension agents across the state. In fact, we have contacted a very good local landscaper in Fayetteville, Mr. Charles Allen, of Green Biz Landscaping, who will be employed to move the Camellias. He will do the work beginning in mid-January, and he will be using a 40" hydraulic tree spade. This seems to be consistent with the suggestions from the Horticulture agents mentioned above. Also, Ray Bond has published a series of Camellia articles in the N. C. Nurserymen's Association journal which will be reprinted in the journal. The first is in this issue.)

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.

ATLANTIC COAST SHOW DATES

January 10-11:	Gainesville Camellia Society Oaks Mall Gainesville, Florida
January 17-18:	Aiken Camellia Club Aiken Mall Aiken, South Carolina
January 24:	Coastal Carolina Camellia Society Citadel Mall Charleston, South Carolina
January 31:	Beaufort Council of Garden Clubs Boys & Girls Club Beaufort, South Carolina
February 7-8:	Charlotte Camellia Society Carolina Place Mall Pineville, North Carolina
February 14-15:	Mid-Carolina Camellia Society Columbia Mall Columbia, South Carolina
February 21-22:	North Georgia Camellia Society Atlanta Botanical Gardens Atlanta, Georgia
February 28:	Middle Georgia Camellia Society Houston Mall Warner Robins, Georgia
February 28:	Tidewater Camellia Society Independence Mall Wilmington, North Carolina
March 7-8:	Fayetteville Camellia Club Cross Creek Mall Fayetteville, North Carolina
March 14:	Piedmont Camellia Club Holly Hill Mall Burlington, North Carolina
March 28:	Virginia Camellia Society Chesapeake Square Mall Chesapeake, Virginia

MIDDLE GEORGIA CAMELLIA CLUB

Georgia National Fair Show
Perry, Georgia—October 11, 1997

Submitted by Warren Thompson
Fort Valley, Georgia

Best Bloom Protected	**Frank Houser Var.**	Dr. Dave Scheibert Marshallville, Georgia
Best Bloom Outdoor	**Edna Bass**	Parker Connor Edisto Island, S.C.
Best Miniature	**Fircone Var.**	Bill & Donna Shepherd Charleston, S.C.
Best Novice Bloom	**Kiku Toji**	Suzanna Beard Warner Robins, Georgia
Best Seedling or Mutant	**#014**	Parker Connor Edisto Island, S.C.
Best Sasanqua or Species	**Sparkling Burgundy**	Hillary Perdue Bonaire, Georgia
Best White Bloom	**Fifth Avenue**	Lib Scott Aiken, S.C.
Best 'Georgia National. Fair'	**Georgia National Fair**	Rupert Drews Charleston, S.C.
Best Collection of Three	**Debutante**	Dr. Dan Nathan Fort Valley, Georgia
Best Collection of Five	five different	Lib Scott Aiken, S. C.

JAPONICAS:

Best Large-V. L.—Outdoor	**Ruffian**	C. M. Gordy Ocala, Fla.
Best Medium—Outdoor	**Magic City**	Parker Connor Edisto Island, S.C.
Best Small—Outdoor	**Kiku Toji**	C. M. Gordy Ocala, Fla.
Best Large-V.L.—Protected	**Charlean Var.**	Lib Scott Aiken, S.C.
Best Medium—Protected	**Nuccio's Gem**	Frank Jamison Fort Valley, Georgia
Best Small—Protected	**Takanini**	Warren Thompson Fort Valley, Georgia

NON-RETIC HYBRIDS:

Best Small—Protected	**Joe Nuccio**	Bill & Sally Hardwick Reynolds, Georgia
Best Medium—Protected	**Ruth Smith**	Dr. Dan Nathan Fort Valley, Georgia
Best Large—Protected	**Mona Jury**	Frank Jamison Fort Valley, Georgia
Best Small—Outdoor	**Night Rider**	Parker Connor Edisto Island, S.C.
Best Medium—Outdoor	**Dream Boat**	Dr. Dan Nathan Fort Valley, Georgia
Best Large—Outdoor	**Mona Jury**	C. M. Gordy Ocala, Fla.

RETICULATAS:

Best Medium—Outdoor	**Betty Ridley**	C. M. Gordy Ocala, Fla.
Best Large—Outdoor	**Massee Lane Var.**	C. M. Gordy Ocala, Fla.

* *

Mildred, have you been gibbing the hens again?

CAMELLIA CARE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

by Ray Bond
Dallas, Texas

By request, I am repeating a series of columns run in the 1995 issues of the North Carolina Association of Nurserymen's *Nursery Notes.* These will be edited and updated. Details and "how to's" will follow in future publications. It is being presented in the November/December issue in order for readers to have the information available for reference at the beginning of the period covered. The January/February column will feature information for March and April, etc.

JANUARY—This is the middle of the blooming season for camellias.

Camellias Grown Inside:

Many growers move their containerized camellias info cold frames for the winter. This will protect them and enable them tc bloom without danger of freezing or losing the blooms. Keep the inside of the cold frame at about 33 degrees F. to 37 degrees F. If the outside temperature drops to 28 degrees F. or below, heat the house. Residual heat in the ground will keep the temperature above freezing.

Camellias go dormant at around 40 degrees F. for a three day period. You don't want to wake them up. They will bloom anyway when the temperature is low. Cold weather "triggers" blooming. Blooms are composed of up to 90% water. Some plants may need extra water to support their blooms, particularly if allowed to bloom profusely. Extra water is good protection from cold weather, if applied a day to two prior to the onset of the cold. Be sure you don't over water and drown your camellias. Camellias must have serious drainage, and watering for the winter should not be so much that this drainage is interrupted.

Camellias Grown Outside:

Mulch and water are the keys to successful outside winter care of camellias. Be sure your outside camellias are well mulched with pine bark nuggets or pine needles. Five or six inches of the trunk will not hurt in the winter. This will keep the roots warm and prevent loss of moisture as well as giving the roots access to oxygen. Don't use hardwood bark or leaves. These tend to mat and deny oxygen to the surface roots.

Take care of your plants to allow them to bloom and, in very cold weather, expand your care program so that your blooms have a chance to survive. Very cold December or January weather can damage buds and plants.

If you believe the cold weather has killed a camellia (planted in the ground), cut it off at ground level. Seal the stump with a good (water based) plant wound sealer. Place a pine (needle or bark "nugget") mulch around and over the stump. Odds are very great that the plant will sprout from the roots if the root system is strong and the ground around the roots stayed above 25 degrees F.

FEBRUARY

Middle to late February is the beginning of the late blooming season and is nearing the end of the cold season, except for an occasional "nor'easter." There really is not too much to do for camellia plants except protect them from the cold and prepare them for the spring market. The primary concern is care of the buds and blooms so that you can profit from what you have worked a year to grow.

If plants are dry and watered just before freezing weather, the sudden onset of cold can split the plant wide open or otherwise freeze kill it. The water will be taken up by the cambium layer, but the pulp will not have sufficient time to absorb it and transfer it upward, thereby evening the water distribution within the plant. Uneven water distribution will enhance splitting and hasten freeze kill.

PESTS

In late February, pests can damage good blooms and healthy plants. If there is unusually warm weather, ants, via their herding of aphids, and slugs will damage blooms. Ants will herd aphids to the buds and the sucking of the aphids will ruin them. Ants will also go into the bloom for nectar and, if nothing else, you may find blooms filled with ants.

Nocturnal mollusks will go into a bloom for a nice bite of the tender new growth, bloom petals, or a drink of nectar. Their slimy trails, will leave brown streaks on petals, thereby ruining the bloom. I have seen prize blooms mauled by slugs and snails.

In later winter, voles and squirrels like to chew the soft bark around the base of camellia plants. Voles (sometimes called "shrews") will completely sever a camellia trunk in a few minutes. The camellia will look like a miniature beaver sawed it down. They love the soft cambium, particularly when they cannot get to anything else, such as acorns. Be wary of voles; they can be a real problem. Cats are a great solution for rodent problems.

* * * * * * * *

Our loyal Auctioneer, Buck Mizell, sells camellias for the cause at the Coastal Carolina Club Picnic, May 1997, at Edisto Island, S.C.

(Connor)

Making Sense of Botanical Names

by R. Peter Madsen and Alan McDaniel
Virginia Nurseymen's Association Newsletter
August, 1997

There was a story going around recently about an English-speaking woman who was visiting China and felt very lost because she could not communicate with the people very well. Being an avid gardener, she, of course, visited some of the beautiful Chinese gardens, and while puzzling over the precise species of a certain plant, was approached by a Chinese gardener who apparently knew what she was doing from the few Latin words she was using. He said the proper species name, and they had a lovely time going around the garden conversing in botanicalese.

If we look beyond the intimidating Latin names for plants, a very simple classification system is revealed. All plants are identified according to a binomial system--*bi* meaning two, and *nom* meaning name. So all plants have two names (see, now, that was easy--that's all there is to it, really..)-- The genus and the species.

Just as you have a first name and a last name, so does every plant. Your last name identifies you generically as being part of a particular group--Smith, Jones, or Mentha. Your first name identifies you specifically--Sally, George, or Piperata (Pip for short). When writing your name to be classified, as on a government form, you put your generic name first, followed by your specific name, Smith, Sally; Jones, George; Mentha piperata (the species name is not capitalized in scientific names). So peppermint, *Mentha piperata,* is identified as being a mint by the generic, or genus, mane mentha, and then is given individuality by the specific name piperata.

But, what happens when several related people, with the same generic name, are also given the same specific name? Margaret, for example--they all look different, but how do we differentiate among them in conservation, when we cannot point to them and say that is Margaret, not the other one? We use nicknames, Meg, Margie, Maggie, Peggy. These are like names of plant varieties.

The variety is a subgroup name in which the plant differs only slightly from the species. This further delineates a specific plant. It is shown in Latin notation following the genus and species and the abbreviation var., as in the *Mentha piperata var.* variegate, the peppermint with the white variegated leaves.

A cultivar (cultivated variety) is a kind of variety that can only be maintained by human cultivation--it does not come true from seed or reproduce itself in nature. Hybrid plants are cultivars. The cultivar name is set off in one of three ways--by putting the abbreviation cv. before it, as in *Ilex cornuta* cv. 'Burforii'; by using boldface type; or most commonly, by enclosing it in single quotes, as in *Camellia japonica* 'Debutante.'

By the way, the italics are used only because it is proper, in writing, to italicize words that are in any language other than English.

Each Latin botanical name is actually a fascinating puzzle that can tell you a great deal about the plant and how it is identified. The genus name is always a noun; mentha--it is a mint. The species name is commonly an adjective describing the genus name: piperata--it is like pepper (strong, pungent, spicy). So *Mentha piperata* is peppery mint. The species name of a plant can tell you what color its flowers are (albus = white, coccineus = scarlet), what it smells like (foetida = fetid or stinky, perfumatissima = like perfume), where it originates (chinensis = China, virginiana = Virginia), its natural habitat (aquatica = water, arvensis = field), or its form and habit (reptans = creeping, gracilis = graceful or slender). Other species names are a little more complex, as in grandiflora; the prefix grandi- means large, flora means flower. Other common prefixes include leuco- (white), macro- (long or large), semper- (always), and brevi-(short).

Sometimes we can recognize only part of the plant name, but it may be possible to guess the rest, since many English words are derived from Latin. If we are shown the name *Maranta leuconeura,* from what we have learned here we can say that whatever maranta is, this particular maranta has something white (leuco-). Study the part you don't know

* *

Maj. Doug Simon leads Virginia Camellia Society members in potting over 200 air layered plants at member Aldon Turner's home in Virginia Beach in September, 1997.

(Simon)

--neura-- it sounds like neuralgia or neurosis, which have to do with nerves; nerves also means lines or veins. The leaves of the nerve plant, *Maranta leuconeura,* do indeed have whitish veins.

Common sense and a little vocabulary exercise can help you understand many plant names. Something else that can help is the **New Pronouncing Dictionary of Plant Names**, available from Florists Publishing Company, 310 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Editor's Note: The following might be of interest to Camellia lovers. First, here are several Camellia genera.

Japonica -- of Japan
Oleifera -- oil bearing
Sinensis -- of China
Reticulata -- netted-veined
Vernalis -- of spring
Hiemalis -- relating to winter
Chrysantha -- golden flowered

Here are a few additional camellia words and their meanings.

imperator -- showy
alba -- white
amabilis -- lovely
amoenus -- charming
rubra -- red
purpurea -- purple
plena -- double, full
elegans -- elegant, beautiful
gigantea -- gigantic, large
fimbriata -- fringed
undulata -- wavy surface
variegatus -- variegated

* *

Outstanding Camellia growers at the 1997 Gulf Coast meeting are (left to right) Clarence Gordy, Hulyn Smith, Fred Hahn, and James Smelley.

(David Nihart)

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