

Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



GRACE ALBRITTON

FRANCES SHANNON RACOFF MEMORIAL AWARD, 2003

AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

This issue of ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIAS is dedicated to Jim Darden, Past Editor

Jim Darden's role as Editor of *Atlantic Coast Camellias*, Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society has been one of not only dedication but also one of hard work. The Spring Journal, 2003, was his last after serving eleven years as Editor. In Jim's column he said that "40 hours of time is needed for each issue." Apply a little math: 11×3 issues per year = 33 issues. $33 \text{ issues} \times 40 \text{ hours} = 1320 \text{ hours}$. A work-week these days is 37.5 hours, almost nine full-time months were volunteered to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. We now know the REAL meaning of dedication.

Thank you, Jim. We applaud you for your dedicated service.

Twenty-four years in academia teaching horticulture, heading the horticulture department, experiencing world travel and in addition operating his plant nursery all contributed toward a rich knowledge, enthusiasm toward and love of plants. These many experiences were incorporated in making each new issue of *Atlantic Coast Camellias* diverse, extremely interesting, and eagerly awaited for by members. His excellent photography and inclusion of pictures taken of camellias in distant lands added a new dimension for the edification of camellia lovers.

Jim was born in and has lived his life in Clinton, North Carolina. His undergraduate degree was earned at Methodist College in Fayetteville and his graduate degree was awarded at Duke. His first position was with Durham County schools. After six years he moved on to Sampson Community College in his hometown as Head of Horticulture. Sampson Community College still remains in his retirement plans but now, only on a half-time basis. He will also continue to operate his nursery. He and his family still love traveling. The world situation and the war with Iraq, has seriously interrupted the travel industry and those travel plans are on hold for now. He and a friend are still planning to begin a travel company in the future.

Jim and his lovely Wife, Mary Nell, have two sons both of whom have earned horticultural degrees from North Carolina State University. Jay, now 27, is City Executive for Cape Fear Farm Credit and works with giving loans to farmers. Jeffrey (23) graduated two years ago; and now is with Cardinal Landscaping company in Wilmington. Jim and Mary Nell are, also, very proud of their two grandsons, Zach, four years old, and Pete who is three.

Indeed it is a pleasure to dedicate this issue of *Atlantic Coast Camellias* to Jim Darden who for over a decade, made this Journal "happen."

IN THIS ISSUE

Dedication to Jim Darden.....	inside front cover
In This Issue.....	1
ACCS Officers.....	2
ACCS Directors.....	3
<i>The Master's Garden</i>	
reprint of poem by Mrs. Ernest S. Todd	4
President's Message	
by Bob Reese, Jacksonville, FL.....	5
Grow Camellias From Seed	
By Richard Mims, Lugoff, SC.....	6
Protected Camellias	
by Richard Mims, Lugoff, SC.....	7
Judging Seedlings	
reprint of article by the late Marvin Jernigan.....	11
Editor's Column	
by Richard Mims, Lugoff, SC.....	15
Some Notes on the Camellia	
by Edwin H. Folk, III	18
You Can't See the Forest for the Trees OR Water pH	
by Geary Serpas, Santee, SC.....	20
Country Gates	
By Thomas Martin (reprinted with permission)	23
Some Shady Characters: Companion Plants for Camellias	
by Cindy Watson, Cam Too Camellia Nursery, Inc.	24
Clara and Fred Hahn Surprised on Fiftieth Anniversary.....	
	26
Show Reports.....	
	27

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

OFFICERS 2002-2003

PRESIDENT.....	Bob Reese 9711 Beauclerc Terrace, Jacksonville, FL 32257 (904) 731-0689
1st VICE PRESIDENT	W. Lee Poe, Jr. 807 East Rollingwood Road, Aiken, SC 29801 (803) 648-8249
2nd VICE PRESIDENT	John Newsome 2405 Howell Mill Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318 (404) 355-4478 (GA) (828) 526-5340 (NC)
SECRETARY	Mildred Robertson 107 Belle Rive Drive, Ninety Six, SC 29666 (864) 543-2875
TREASURER.....	Bonnie Serpas 229 Green Street, Santee, SC 29142 (803) 854-3171
HISTORIAN.....	Cheryl Thompson 602 Forest Drive, Ft. Valley, GA 31030 (912) 825-2559
EDITOR.....	Richard Mims 409 Groves St., Lugoff, SC 29078 (803) 438-9741
WEBMASTER	Miles Beach 262 Alexandra Drive, Mt. Peasant, SC 29464 (803) 881-6420 MrCamellia@aol.com ACCS website: www.southerncamellias.com

ABOUT THE COVER

This issue's cover features *Grace Albritton* which won the Frances Shannon Racoff Memorial Award for Best Formal Double Japonica in Show. The 58th, Annual ACS Convention and Show were hosted this year by CSSEGA. *Grace Albritton* was grown by Bill and Mildred Robertson from Ninety Six, South Carolina. See also page 14.

DIRECTORS 2001-2003

Jim Oates
1702 Main Street
PO Box 514
Daphne, AL
(334) 626-0203

Steve Lilly
2420 Sutton Road
Lakeland, FL 33810
(863) 858-6877

Esther Smith
PO Box 286
Weirsdale, FL 32195
(352) 821-1051

Marie Mizell
929 Elmer Avenue
Metairie, LA 70005
(504) 833-3970

Jim Smelley
4831 Devon Street
Moss Point, MS 39563-2410
(228) 475-9736

DIRECTORS 2002-2004

Sergio Bracci
5567 North Buston Street
San Gabriel, CA 91776
(626) 286-4338

Dr. Dave Scheibert
PO Box 67
Marshallville, GA 31057
(478) 967-2324

Ronald Wolfe
1300 5th Avenue
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 883-2349

Lou Bryant
504 Francisca Lane
Cary, NC 27511
(919) 467-6876

Glenn Capps
334 Devane Street
Fayetteville, NC 38305
(910) 323-9381

Miles Beach
262 Alexandra Drive
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 881-6420

Richard Mims
409 Groves Street
Lugoff, SC 29078
(803) 438-9741

Frits Morsink
311 Daffodil Lane
Chesapeake, VA 23325
(757) 420-8044

The Master's Garden

Today I walked among the trees
And flowers here and there
And thought of how each tender bud
Received such gentle care.

This Gardener surely must have loved
Each tiny little seed
To look beyond our view and see
An ever, ever present need.

For beauty and serenity
The things we cherish so
And only by the Master's grace
These things will bloom and grow.

This is the Master's Garden
Created up above
And every living thing therein
Is a symbol of His love.

Tread softly, gentle stranger
As down this path you trod
For the beauty found in nature
Is a blessed gift from God.

Mrs. Ernest S. Todd,
Myrtle Beach Garden Club,
Myrtle Beach, SC

(Reprint from Atlantic Coast Camellias, Vo. XXXVII, Fall, 1985, No.2)

President's Message

By Bobby Reese
Jacksonville, Florida

I planted a vegetable garden until that space was needed for my ever-expanding camellia collection. Now, while gardening, what do you suppose was the most anticipated event and time of the year? Of course, watching for the seeds to first break the ground in spring. To me, that was "pure excitement."

Now that I'm watching that lush, new growth coming from those long-dormant growth buds on my camellias, I am getting that same "pure excitement." My blooms are gone, the season has changed and living in Florida, I am one of the first growers to experience this excitement. Isn't it great that camellia growers always have something to get excited about?

Something else that excited me recently was a presentation made by John Newsome to the ACS Board of Directors at the Spring Convention in Savannah, Georgia. John headed a committee whose purpose was to propose to the ACS a plan for future expansion. After hearing what John and his committee proposed, I felt comforted and confident that, with dedicated and hard workers like John and his committee, the American

Camellia Society will not only expand but will also have a sound and successful future.

Like all of our Camellia societies, the American Camellia Society is always in need of financial support. Money is needed for growth, or for that matter, even to exist. The proposed plan will give the ACS a major tool with which to approach future benefactors. The plan was approved and highly praised by board members.

I am asking John to make the same presentation at the Saturday morning ACCS meeting in Myrtle Beach. I want all of you to "feel the excitement."

The ACCS Board meeting is being held this year on Saturday, May 3, in Santee, SC. The Board Members will act upon some Bylaws changes that will be proposed by a committee headed by Miles Beach. Other members of this committee are Lou Bryant and Glenn Capps. You will get my report of the meeting in Santee at the fall ACCS meeting in Myrtle Beach.

Let me close by asking all members to plan to attend the ACCS meeting in Myrtle Beach. The more people there, the more fun we will have. Also, now is the

time to prune, fertilize, spray, talk, and maybe play a little music for your camellias. You will be rewarded with that “pure excitement” as delicate, new foliage appears and you anticipate the onset of buds for those magnificent flowers next season.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Geary Serpas	Santee, SC
Jeanette Waltz	Hadenville, VA
Ed Powers	Wilmington, NC
Bill Hardwick	Reynolds, GA
Mildred Robertson ..	Ninety Six, SC
Richard Waltz	Hadenville, VA
Buddy Cawthon	Atlanta, GA
Annabelle Fetterman ...	Clinton, NC
Hulyn Smith	Valdosta, GA

GROW CAMELLIAS FROM SEED

The green apple-looking balls on camellia plants contain seeds. The seeds are mature by late August and may be gathered for planting whether or not the pods have begun to split naturally. Gathering seeds in late August and early September is recommended to prevent as much loss as possible that may be caused by squirrels, other animals, or by dropping naturally and getting lost in mulch and debris on the ground.

Sprout seeds by first dipping them in a fungicide solution such as Captan or Benlate. Place seeds soon after they are removed from the bush in a plastic bag filled with damp peat or sphagnum and place in a warm spot such as the top of a refrigerator. As the seeds sprout, plant each one in its own container, keep it watered and fertilized and you might have the most beautiful flower ever seen. Perhaps not; but then, the anxiety just grows to see it bloom.

Growing camellia seedlings is a very satisfying hobby and has earned notoriety in the camellia world for many growers. When new camellias are grown from seeds, named, and commercially introduced, the originator's name will be included with the flower description for as long as its nomenclature is published—a means of posterity.

The *American Camellia Yearbook, 2002* has wonderful articles on growing seedlings. Join the American Camellia Society and get your personal copy. You will be happy you did.

Send \$24.00 for single or \$27.50 for joint membership to:

American Camellia Society
100 Massee Lane road
Fort Valley, GA 31030
USA

Protected Camellias

By Richard Mims

Growing camellias outside has its many advantages including the glossy-foliage plants in the landscape that are spectacular even without blooms. Growing camellias out-side for exhibition, however, has its disadvantages. Freezes make unprotected exhibition flowers scarce for some winter camellia shows as was the case for a few shows this season. When freezes occur during show weeks, growers using greenhouses must fill the void to have enough blooms for successful shows. Because camellias love cool weather, blooms seem to be superior in temperatures from right above freezing to about 60° F. This fact sets the stage for the greenhouse grower—keep plants from freezing but also keep them from wilting when temperatures soar.

Many issues of *Atlantic Coast Camellias* and its predecessor, *Carolina Camellias* contained articles on greenhouse growing. In past years "Greenhouse Culture," by different authors and "In and Around The Greenhouse," by the late James McCoy were regular feature articles. Perhaps such a regular feature and (perhaps another featuring tips for growers of unprotected blooms) should again be included in each

issue of *Atlantic Coast Camellias*. One member could be responsible for each column and get guest writers to contribute. Why might this be important? This column may tend to encourage more members to try growing blooms in a greenhouse along with those in their yards. This way exhibitors won't "strike out" on the ribbons when show time comes around after a hard freeze. (In this article, I will put suggested topics for a "greenhouse" regular feature in all capital letters. Should you have expert knowledge or knowledge through experimentation, it might spur you on to send in your thoughts to *Atlantic Coast Camellias* for publication. If you don't want to write the article, send your ideas to the editor who can put finishing touches on the column for you.)

A COOL GREENHOUSE— Heating cost is kept to a minimum in a greenhouse by setting the thermostat to turn on only to keep the flowers from freezing—say at 38°F. (If greenhouse growers are putting on added heat to keep tropical plants alive, don't blame the extra cost on the camellias.) When the temperatures start rising above 60°F in the greenhouse **HUMIDITY** must come into play.

Some type of MISTING SYSTEM such as misting nozzles, a Carolina cooler, humidifier or manual sprinkling of floors and walls must be used.

Do you have a good system to keep humidity above 50% on hot days? What type of heating do you think best? Do you use vents and/or circulating fans? Other members would want to know the best available for inclusion in their planning. Gas heating, which I use, requires venting. We must be careful not to become asphyxiated while working or picking flowers.

GROWING PLANTS IN CONTAINERS OR IN THE GROUND. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method; I use both. Most of my winning reticulata hybrid blooms come from plants grown in the ground and most of my winners in miniature, small, and medium categories come from container grown plants. My house is so crowded, that I must place container plants beneath the canopies of those grown in the ground.

MULCHING. Do you think it decreases petal blight by separating the fallen petals from the damp ground? Talking about petal blight, have you noticed that protected blooms at shows seem to be less infected with petal blight than unprotected blooms? Could it be that the SMALLER CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT

gets more of our personal attention as to CLEANLINESS than the enlarged landscape?

SHADE. Greenhouse growers generally use shade cloth to control light. (I used 50% shade after reading through many journals to find the suggestion). It is known that camellias grow and bloom better with good sunlight but not direct sun..

Has anyone tried shade cloth that admits more sunlight during blooming season when the sun doesn't heat earth as much as during summer? Would another density be better during bloom setting time beginning about June?

What spacing is best for camellias growing protected? SPACING was decided for me because I was determined to plant 60 show winning varieties in the ground in half of my greenhouse. I ended up planting large plants about 34 inches apart. (I personally think four feet should be minimum distance.) I would not advise anyone to become so attached to each variety as I have done that s/he doesn't have the heart to leave a few out of the collection. Each year I find that that my greenhouse doesn't grow but the plants do. Something has got to give. As I get older, it becomes more difficult to stoop around among the plants to gather blooms.

What is the best type of IRRIGATION to use in a greenhouse containing pots of varying sizes and also plants growing in the ground? What system is used to keep water from ruining blooms or buds in the flowering season? What system is used to wash down leaves to help deter aphids and mites during non-blooming seasons? Have you rigged up something that is better than hand watering? Tell us.

I do use sprinklers in summer but always water by hand during blooming time. Any time I see a pot holding water, I know it is time to re-pot. The time of year I repot does not seem to make a difference. Plants in the ground need not only good soil but also excellent drainage.

That brings us to the subject of SOIL MIXTURES. It seems that each grower incorporates something indigenous to his/her growing area—Redwood bark, peanut hulls, pecan hulls, etc. My base is aged pine bark soil conditioner—always 60% of the mixture. The other 40% may vary with what I have on hand. I prefer good leaf compost for the other 40%. If its not available, I substitute bagged cow compost mixed with bagged soil mix for rhododendrens or trees and shrubs.

Remember that NUTRIENTS are essential for the growth and

reproduction of plants. Carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen make up 94% of the dry tissue of plants. These nutrients are obtained from water and air. When plants are watered—as the water works its way down to the bottom and out of the pot, it creates a vacuum that pulls down the air through the root system. Plants are usually harmed, however, by the lack of one or more of the 13 other elements when combined represent less than 6% of the plants dry matter. We are familiar with the primary group (the three numbers on a fertilizer bag): nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K). Do you know the secondary group called macro-nutrients: sulfur(S), calcium (Ca), and magnesium (Mg)? Still another group called micro-nutrients exist: Manganese (Mn), iron (Fe), boron (B) zinc (Zn), copper (Cu), Molybdenum Mo), and Chlorine (Ce). Although we may not remember the names, it is essential that all of these elements are present in container mixtures of man-made soil. I buy the macro and micronutrients in bags and put it in the soil mixture before planting a camellia. I wait until the plant is established to add the primary group—especially nitrogen—too much of which will burn the plant. Some years, I use organic fertilizer on top of the ground. I have used cottonseed meal, alfalfa meal, and ground

fish. (I must add that I have used fish meal only once; because, I could hardly enter the greenhouse because of the odor for two weeks after using it.)

I think it best for the water to push or pull this down through all the roots where micro-organisms can convert it to use rather than mix it in the soil where it can make direct contact with the roots and possibly burn them. If you are a grower who doesn't mix soil and adds all nutrients to the top of the soil around the spread of the plant, be certain to read bag labels. You may want to spend a little more money to be certain your plants are getting all the nutrients essential for growth and good flowers.

Cottonseed meal is especially good and some growers use it exclusively to fertilize camellias. The meal is made up of the three parts of a seed: the seed coat and plant embryo, but mostly of endosperm which is a food reserve (fertilizer) for getting the little seedling embryo off to a good start.

There are many other facets of greenhouse growing and research on growing camellias in greenhouses that would be interesting for our group: Are GRAFTS sheltered in a greenhouse more successful than ones left to the elements? Does AIR LAYERING in the greenhouse cause inferior

show blooms the following show season? What are ORGANIC PEST CONTROLS that may help those of us who are allergic to chemical sprays? What are the best CHEMICAL PEST CONTROLS for camellia pests? What is the best way to apply controls in a closed greenhouse environment? What PRECAUTIONS should we take, not only to keep from harming ourselves, but also to keep from harming our plants?

Should a greenhouse with healthy specimens be used also as a plant hospital, or should sick plants be removed immediately after being noticed?

Do you have advice for a PROPAGATING CORNER in your greenhouse? SPROUTING SEEDS? Have you found a SPRAYING machine that is the best you have ever used? All of these items, no matter how short may help us grow better camellias. Short items can be combined into columns called "tips."

Yes, there is much more to greenhouse growing than keeping blooms from freezing. Let us know your SECRETS.

Volunteer to take over this column each month to help a new editor. Remember, we can all learn something new every day while helping and passing on information to others.

Judging Seedlings

(This is a reprint of an article written for
Carolina Camellias and Atlantic Coast Camellias,
Vol. XXXVIII, Winter, 1985, No. 1,
by the late Marvin Jernigan from Warner Robbins, Georgia)

The seedling is the most misunderstood and misjudged of any flower. I have heard good camellia show judges state that we will have to choose this one because it is the freshest. The A.C.S. scale of points for judging seedlings does not even list freshness as a point to consider. The scale is as follows:

Texture and substance.....	20
Form.....	10
Color and Marking.....	10
Distinctiveness & Unusual Qualities	50
Foliage.....	10

This scale should always be referred to when judging seedlings.

The following are quotes from the ACS "Rules Pertaining to Seedling Awards."

Section 15:

"Condition should count for very little or be ignored."

Section 16:

"Prime consideration shall be marked improvement or a new development in color, form, style, fragrance or other desirable unique qualities."

Section 17:

"A provisional commended seedling certificate may be awarded when a seedling is likely to make some new and valuable addition to the genus camellia."

The judging scale for seedlings cannot be the same as it is for named varieties.

A seedling is defined as being a flower of a plant grown from a seed and has not been offered for sale or sold either by the originator or by others, and must not have been shown in a class eligible for an outstanding bloom award or where a blue ribbon is counted toward a sweepstakes award. A seedling bloom that has been shown for a period of five years is not eligible to be shown as a seedling again.

The following is from "RULES FOR EXHIBITING SEEDLINGS AND MUTANTS IN ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS" (ACS Yearbook 1978):

Section 1:

Seedling and Mutant
Classes:

- (a) Seedling and Mutant exhibits should be segregated into any of the following separate classes:

1. Japonicas
2. Reticulatas and Hybrids with Reticulata parentage
3. Hybrids without Reticulata parentage
4. All other Species (Sasanquas, Hiemalis, Vernalis, etc.)

(b) Any of the foregoing classes may be combined or subdivided in any logical manner if such combinations or subdivisions are clearly stated in the show schedule. For example, the schedule may list the seedling classes as follows:

Class 1

Japonica -
Not chemically treated.

Class 2

Japonica -
Chemically treated.

Class 3

Reticulatas and Hybrids -
Treated or untreated.

Class 4 All other Species -
Treated or untreated.

(c) Any or all of the seedling classes listed above in Item "a" may be separated into size groupings if clearly stated in the show schedule.

Section 2 - Requirements for Seedling and Mutant Entries:

- (a) Every Seedling or Mutant entry must state whether the bloom has been grown protected or unprotected and whether or not it has been chemically treated. Otherwise, entries are subject to disqualification.
- (b) For the information of judges, entry cards for Seedlings and Mutants may call attention to unusual qualities.
- (c) More than one specimen of the same Seedling or Mutant should be exhibited whenever possible. When more than one specimen of that same Seedling or Mutant is entered, all specimens should be entered under a single entry card.
- (e) Seedling or Mutant entries shall not be considered for either Outstanding Bloom Awards or Sweepstakes Awards.
- (f) Official Seedling entry cards are available from ACS Headquarters. Mutants are entered on regular entry cards."

A mutant should never be judged against a seedling.

Seedlings should be located in such a place that they get as much natural light as possible, and be

out of the way of the judges when they are judging the balance of the show. Seedlings are to be judged by all the ACS qualified judges at the show.

In my opinion, every judge in the show should look at each seedling as an individual, and if he sees something he thinks is good or worthy of consideration, request that it be put to a vote to determine whether or not to give it a certificate. The only exception to this procedure would be the judge who has entered a seedling bloom. He should not cast a vote.

Judges should always look at the ACS entry card for seedlings. The uniqueness of the seedling may be indicated thereon. For example, if the card indicates a cross between a reticulata and a japonica and the size is miniature, this would be a unique seedling no matter what the bloom looked like. It could very well be the genetic base that we need to breed a class of miniature reticulatas. This is something that should be considered when voting for a seedling certificate. I do not mean that it should automatically get a certificate, but it should be one factor for consideration, and have something to do with the bloom being given an award or not. Every factor should be given some weight in the judging.

I have seen show placement committees put any bloom it

could not identify in the seedling class. This should never happen. A bloom should meet all qualifications for a seedling as set out by ACS rules, or it should be put in some other class.

A few years ago, I put a bloom of 'Bill Johnson' in a show as seedling No. 155. This bloom was removed from the show at breakdown and grafted. The man did not get a take and he lost his understock along with the scion. Any time I show a good seedling, it would not do anyone any good to graft it, for it would not take. In most cases the understock would die along with the scion. This is not true with most scions and the show committee should make sure that the security is sufficient to prevent scions of seedlings from being taken for grafting purposes. If a hybridizer has a good seedling and word gets out to the growers, it might lose much of its commercial value to the originator.

(Editor's note: When Mr. Jernigan taught the Judge's School I attended, he told us why the scion would die. He always mixed a little weed killer in the water in which he put his exhibition seedlings.)

It takes 75% of the ACS judges to award a seedling certificate of merit to a bloom. I personally would like to see this changed to 100%. To get a unanimous vote, the bloom would

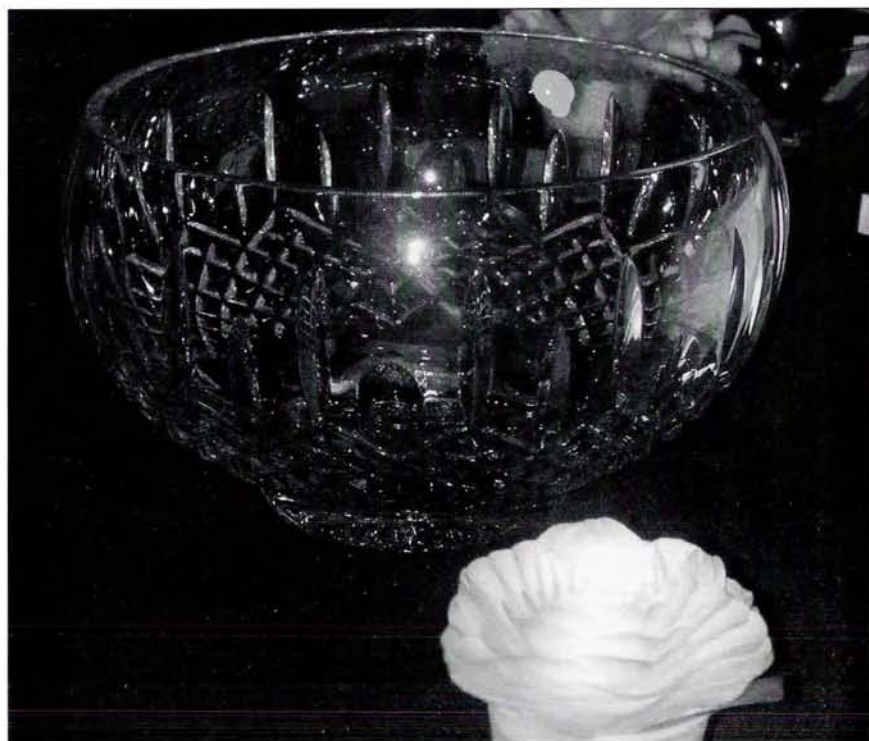
really have to be outstanding. I would like to see a requirement that a seedling could not be shown if it were gibbed.

When you gib a seedling, you do not know what you've got. We know that gib will make the bloom larger and earlier. So we do not know what size it really is or when its natural blooming time is. I personally would like to see written ballots for seedlings use the ACS scale of points where every judge would have to give it a point score. This would be extremely valuable to a serious hybridizer. He would know what the judges are looking for. He

would better know how to change his breeding program.

Novice judges are prohibited from judging seedlings for the awarding of provisional or commended seedling certificates.

I have heard the Chief Judge state at the start of judging that in his opinion, there is no seedling bloom worthy of being voted on for a certificate. This is not a decision for the Chief Judge or even a team of judges to make. According to ACS Rules, any certified ACS Judge can award a blue ribbon to one or more seedlings and ask that it be voted on for a certificate.



Frances Shannon Racoff Memorial Trophy

Editor's Column

By Richard Mims
Lugoff, South Carolina

Rapt attention was evident during the excellent program on camellia hybridizing presented by Gene Phillips at the October ACCS Convention in Myrtle Beach. Gene and his "network" made up of many outstanding and reputable growers of seedlings and also a few of us amateurs and "chance seedling growers" are seriously working on not only learning about and receiving solutions to problems by E-mail and answering members questions as they arise but also by setting goals for qualities wanted in the camellia of the future. Members who attended the presentation saw slides of species of unusual shapes, colors, and characteristics such as scents, foliage, and cold hardiness. Yes, the committee is giving serious attention to hybridizing.

Gene's presentation and a remark by Ray Watson, owner of Cam Too Camellia Nursery, Inc. gave me a whole new appreciation for some of the newer camellias bred to be cold hardy. I made the casual remark to Ray that many of the camellias being registered now look as if they should be used for understock. He immediately took issue and said something similar

to this. "Richard, you should witness the joy and happiness on the faces of people in say Maryland or New York when they find out they can grow these camellias and have blooms in their climate. They are in awe of the smallest flower just as much as you are in awe of a very large 'Tomorrow.'" That remark "sunk in." In my narrow mindedness, I had not realized that only those of us in states that have mild winters have the privilege of enjoying these awesome winter beauties. I now see beauty of these cold-hardy flowers for what they are—a means of expanding the universe of the plant for more people to enjoy.

I can understand Mr. Jernigan's seemingly frustration in the preceding article while urging judges to pay attention to the rules set forth to judge seedlings. I have felt the same way and have heard some of the same remarks he mentioned. **Although the judges at flower shows hold in their hands the only means to getting outstanding seedling certificates,** the only thing we seem occupied with is choosing the freshest, best-looking flower to place on the head table as the "Best Seedling in Show. As far as

the characteristics hybridizing people are seeking such as cold hardiness, scent, color, blooming time, etc., how do judges know? Have you seen a judge smell a seedling to find an odor? Yes, you do experience frustration when you show a beautiful flower that has an odor or blooms in November without gib because a judge thinks it is too similar to one (of a larger size) that blooms naturally in March or April after shows have ended.

Now that more serious attention is being placed on hybridizing, it is imperative that the grower of the seedling tell the judges the advantages and disadvantages known about the seedling—a checklist or information card would be appropriate. The questions could be made up by the “network.” Questions such as:

1. What month does the plant begin to bloom naturally?
2. What is the lowest temperature the plant has withstood and still bloomed?
3. Does the plant have an odor?
4. What variety is most similar to this seedling, and how does your plant differ?
5. Do you think your plant is unique and deserves registering with ACS.

Check (✓) any bad habits you have witnessed with this seedling.

- ___1. Blooms fade
 - ___2. Blooms last less than three days
 - ___3. Blooms shatter.
 - ___4. Petals have vegetative growth within that spoils bloom
 - ___5. Blooms are usually wop-sided & not well-rounded
 - ___6. Blooms flare or droop downwards shortly after opening
 - ___7. Many buds do not open or “bull nose”
 - ___8. Buds drop prematurely
 - ___9. Tight buds are killed during normal winters.
 - ___10. Very sensitive to die back.
- Check (✓) good habits (If unknown, put (U).

- ___1. Blooms do not fade.
- ___2. Blooms last and stay on bush more than 3 days.
- ___3. Blooms fall in one piece
- ___4. Petals of blooms have no unnatural streaks or vegetative growth devoid of color.
- ___5. Blooms are usually well shaped and rounded.
- ___6. Petals on blossoms do not fold back until blossoms age.
- ___7. Bloom shows color break
- ___8. Bloom is not similar to an existing variety.
- ___9. Bloom is superior to an existing similar variety.
- ___10. Blooms open after freezing periods when many varieties are killed.

Hybridizers wait for years to witness the blossom of their labors. Whereas, most show exhibitors keep several plants of show winning varieties and use gib to have a timely fresh blossom for a show, a hybridizer normally has only one plant. The bloom from that one plant must be kept for long periods if an opinion is wanted from accredited judges at a show. (Many beautiful varieties are never cultivated because their growers have received no encouragement from Judges.)

I personally believe the judges should go by the seedling table at least twice. The first pass made would be for each accredited judge to award a blue ribbon to each seedling s/he deems worthy. All blue ribbon winners would then be placed as the front row with accompanying check sheets for judges to decide whether or not to award a "Leg" and from which to choose a "Best in Show." Only one blue ribbon for a large group of seedlings just does not seem to me to be appropriate.

I agree with Mr. Jernigan that treated blooms of seedlings should not be shown. Should the plant be commercially introduced, very few growers or purchasers other than exhibitors use gibberellic acid (although camellia blossoms would be enjoyed more if gib were used.)

ADDENDUM

The editor volunteered to do this issue because a permanent editor has not come forth. . He regrets that the Journal is overloaded with his material. He hopes that the winter issue will include an article or column or picture from each state represented by members in the ACCS. He respectfully requests that each ACCS Director and officer be responsible for an article to be in the hands of the editor before July 31, 2003. If you can help your Director fulfill this request, please tell him/her. We want future issues of this journal to be representative of the entire geographic area of ACCS.



Ruffian

Some Notes on the *Edwin H. Folk Camellia*

By Edwin H. Folk, III

Edwin H. Folk

Bright red, large, semidouble with loose petals.

Vigorous, upright growth

My Grandfather, Edwin H. Folk, Sr. lived in Edgefield, SC where he was a lawyer. After the civil war his father had had the foresight to keep his money invested in everything except Confederate currency, so at the end of the war, he was able to tell his two sons that he would send them to college wherever they wanted. He assumed correctly that they would return to Edgefield to continue his law practice. My grandfather chose to go to the University of Virginia. His older brother chose a different route, spending several years at the best European universities, learning what he wished and becoming a true Southern gentleman. The two brothers did set up their joint practice about 1890 (there was a small office building in the town dated '2001'). But in a few years, his brother died leaving my Grandfather to practice alone for about 40 years. (He never changed the name of their practice even when my uncle Raymond joined the practice in the early 1930's. In the late 1890's Grandfather married Kate Fraser Speights, a young widow

with a son from low country South Carolina. The couple had three more sons and a daughter (Edwin H Jr., William, and Raymond, and their sister, Ida).

Grandfather's lifelong hobby was growing and breeding camellias. He was passionate on the subject and promised to grow a camellia tree outside their second story bedroom window tall enough to let him pick a camellia blossom for his wife from their bed. He was successful in this...and as I remember from childhood, it was a beautiful tree grafted with a number of different camellia varieties.

I'll never forget our trips to Edgefield from Atlanta at Christmas time when we would return home with a huge bag of pecans and boxes of Camellia blossoms...in every conceivable color and shades of red...pink...white...In Edgefield, he was surrounded by several other growers, some of whom developed new varieties.

Many Edgefield residents referred to Grandfather as "Captain Folk", even though he

was never in any army or militia. An interesting sidelight is that Grandfather's home was visited very often by growers from other parts of the US and in the late 1930's by a number of Japanese diplomats and military officers who mixed their political and military lives with their true loves—growing and breeding camellias.

I can't supply an exact date on which the "Captain"/"Edwin" Folk was developed, but I know it was in the early 1940's, shortly before or after my Grandfather died. (Ed: 1948 in Camellia Nomenclature Supplement) The grower was J. Rainsford Cantelou (better known locally as "Billy") a long-time friend and admirer of Grandfather. The name, "Edwin H. Folk", was created by my Grandfather when he was quite young. His father had named him "Henry Middleton Folk". But while still a child Grandfather dropped the "Middleton", moved the "Henry" to the middle and selected "Edwin" as his first name. Since that time, the name

has been carried by my father, Edwin H., Jr. who taught English from the early 1920's to 1958 at Georgia Tech, myself, Edwin H. III, a retired City Planner and consultant, my son, Edwin H. IV, an architect studying and living for now in Kobe, Japan.

A final note on the name— In the early 1950's I was working for a national company as a traveling representative. One evening in Albany, GA, I needed to get some cash, so I went to the hotel manager and explained my plight. He said he couldn't cash a check for an unknown person, but he asked my name. I replied "Edwin Folk". Immediately, he asked "Are you related to the camellia?" I responded "That was my Grandfather". The manager cashed my check immediately—he too was a Camellia grower.

Finally, I understand that there may be some confusion as to the "real" name of the camellia. I believe that the name Billy Cantelou gave to the camellia was "Captain Edwin H. Folk."

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

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You Can't See the Forest For the Trees OR WATER pH

By Geary Serpas
Santee, South Carolina

Exactly defined, pH is the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen ion concentration. A more simple explanation is that the pH is a number between 0 and 14, denoting various degrees of acidity or alkalinity. Neutral water has a pH of 7. Values below 7 and approaching 0 are increasingly acid while values from 7 to 14 are increasingly alkaline.

Now that everyone is wondering what all this has to do with the camellia shrub, let me relate my situation.

Many years ago, when I started growing camellias, I was living in Lugoff, SC. I started off modestly by planting a few on the "red clay" hill where we had just purchased our home. Well, it did not take me long to acquire my first greenhouse (Bonnie still reminds me of my \$60.00 greenhouse).

I began to show camellias at the local shows, having moderate success. I was certainly no threat to the really good growers, but I would occasionally win some category here or there. My plants continued to improve as well as my selection of varieties.

I should point out that all of the time while living in Lugoff, SC my water supply was a well. The water had some iron in it (red water) and was fairly corrosive. This water in fact caused us some other problems, washing clothes, staining fixtures in the house, etc., My camellias continued to do well, and I began to be more competitive. By this time most of my plants were in containers in 1/2 sand and 1/2 pine bark mixture with a few in different mixtures as I continued to experiment.

During 1974, my employer transferred me to a new operation in the Charleston, SC area. We purchased a home in the Summerville area. One of the first things we did was build a new 1000 square foot greenhouse. Since my good friend Mack McKinnon was keeping my plants at his home in Camden, SC, I was concerned that if he kept them for any length of time, he would surely end up killing them.

After moving my plants to Summerville things went along well for about the first year. Then gradually my plants began to look sickly and were not producing

quality blooms. The second year, things were getting worse and the quality of the blooms really began to deteriorate.

AH! Time to repot. I bare rooted all plants and repotted them in a different mixture (after much discussion with "many experts.") For several months to about one year I could see some improvement and perhaps even got a few decent blooms. Then a slow deterioration began—even to the point of losing a few plants. What to do?? Try adding lime to the plants? The condition of the plants continued to worsen—very little new growth, poor bud set, and worse yet, very poor blooms. More plants died. What to do???? Again, the plants were repotted in a different mixture. (This decision came after much more discussion with the same "many experts.") After the last bare rooting the approximately 200 plants, the count is now down to less than 15 very sickly looking plants.

To make a long story short, the above sequence was repeated about four times (and I mean total bare rooting while repotting). It was getting so that I could almost recognize the plants by not only their flowers and leaves, but also their roots. Fortunately, I was very successful grafting all the new varieties that I would proceed to lose in about two years. In fact, I would graft for

some of my friends who would get their plants as quickly as possible before I would kill them. I developed a reputation as a real, tough camellia killer.

After about ten years of losing plants and the others producing very few blooms, I struck upon a brilliant idea. Since one of my responsibilities at my place of employment was the total water treatment for a major industry, I would have an analysis run on the water at my home.

Since moving to Summerville and purchasing my home which just happened to be on one of the first streets beyond the water-treatment plant for the Town of Summerville—a total distance of about one mile, I never gave the quality of the water any thought at all. It always looked good and tasted fine. Also, being close to the plant, the pressure was excellent.

My analysis of the water sample showed a pH of 8.3 and a chlorine residual of greater than 2.0 ppm, all of which makes sense since most municipal water plants export the water to the community at a high pH (around 8.3) to prevent corrosion in the distribution system. As the water flows through all of the municipality pipes, the pH decreases but hopefully, at the most distant point, remains above a 7.0 pH. The same applies to the chlorine, the plant sends the water

out with a chlorine residual of 2.0+ ppm so that by the time the water gets to the furthest user, the chlorine residual would still be greater than zero. This is done as a disinfecting agent to kill harmful bacteria that could be present in the water.

All of the literature states that camellias like a pH of about 5.8 to 6.8—just slightly acidic. Remember, a pH of 7.0 would be neutral. So you can imagine what was happening to my plants in containers with a steady diet of 8.3-pH water. This is similar to liming the plants continuously. Also, the high chlorine would have a very detrimental effect.

Now, what to do? Two possibilities existed: #1: dig a well, or #2: treat the municipal water. After much thought and NOT talking to my team of “many experts,” I decided to treat the water. I had access to an open-top fiberglass tank, some pH measuring equipment, and a small pump from an old washing machine. I decided to adjust the water pH with muriatic acid (dilute hydrochloric acid). This was chosen because it is readily available from building supply places, the price is quite reasonable, and is not too difficult to handle from a safety aspect. The amount of acid can be calculated or determined by trial and error. The 350 gallons of water in my system took about

116 ounces by volume (2 cups) of muriatic acid to give a pH of about 6.0. The acid was added to the tank while filling for a good mixing. The open tank, having a screen over the top to keep out leaves, etc. allows the chlorine to escape. By the time the water is used, the pH is adjusted and the chlorine is dissipated. Recognizing that a more exact or elaborate system could be installed, I found this to be more than adequate. After the system was in service for several months, a significant improvement in the condition of the camellia plants was noted.

I have conducted my own informal survey among my friends and acquaintances that are consistently on the head table. Guess what! The majority of consistent show winners (or more competitive growers) water their plants with either well water or water from a pond. For any of you growers who are on city water and are not having much luck with your container grown plants (or perhaps plants in the ground), you should take a look at something as simple as the quality

(pH) of the most common and important ingredient of your camellia culture. It took me almost ten years to find this forest because the trees were in the way.

Now, here is the rest of the story. In 1989, Hurricane Hugo dropped a huge pine tree right

down the centerline of my greenhouse destroyed the water tank and most of the plants. Some of the plants were broken off at the graft, others were delimbed—but at least when the camellia plants were killed, they were healthy.

I have since retired and moved to Santee, SC. Now all

my plants are growing in the ground in the open. Best of all, I'm watering again with well water. The plants are thriving and producing excellent quality blooms when the cold or strong winds off the lake doesn't get them—always something, I guess.

Country Gates

By Thomas Martin

Have you ever seen a country gate?
This marvel of ingenuity
Hung at the entrance to the yard
Of every home in the community.

A wire strung from post to gate
Weighted with an old plowshare
Or other iron castaway
Served as the spring hardware.

These are not the custom now.
Few fences line the streets.
None would have this odd device
A visiting stranger greet.

From *Eutaw Echoes*

By Thomas Martin

Reprinted with permission of the author

SOME SHADY CHARACTERS

Companion Plants for Camellias

By Cindy Watson
Cam Too Camellia Nursery, Inc.

Shrubs

Aucuba sp*-ev,
Azalea sp-ev-
(including
deciduous),
Boxwood ev-,
Barberry sp-,
Blueberry,
Cornus sericea sp
(grown for red
twig),
Calycanthus sp-,
Clethra su-w-,
Cepholtaxus, ev-,
Camellia au-sp-ev-,
Cherry Laurel sp-ev
Dannae,
Daphne sp-some ev-
Forsythia sp-,
Fothergilla su-,
Holly ev-,
Hydrangea su-,
Kerria sp-,
Kalmia sp-ev-,
Lindera sp-,
Leucothoe sp-ev-,
Lonicera tatarica
and fragrantissima
sp-,
Mahonia sp-ev-,
Microbiota ev-,
Nandina sp-ev-,
Pieris ev-sp-,
Peony trees sp-,

Privet su-ev-,
Philadelphus sp-,
Rhododendrons sp
ev-,
Roses su-,
Sambucus
(elderberry) su-,
Sarcococca sp-ev-,
Skimmia sp-ev-,
Sorbaria su-,
Taxus ev-,
Viburnums sp-,
WitchHazel sp-

Annuals

Begonias (all
species),
Bulbs,
Browallia,
Caladiums,
Campanula,
Cyclamen,
Coleus, Cleome,
Gerber Daisy,
Geranium,
Impatiens,
Lobelia,
Lunaria,
Mimulus,
Mignonette,
Nierembergia,
Nemophila,
Pansy,

Primrose,
Snapdragons,
Thunbergia vine
(black eye susan
vine),
Torenia

Perennials

Anemone au-,
Aster cord. Au-,
Aconitum au-,
Aquilegia sp-,
Alchemilla sp-,
Arum su-,
Acanthus su-,
Astrantia su-,
Astilbe sp-,
Aruncus sp-,
Brunnera sp-,
Bletilla sp-,
Bamboo,
Bergenia sp- ev-,
Carex grass,
Cimicifuga au-,
Coreopsis (Zagreb)
su-,
Chelone au-,
Cyclamen sp-,
Corydalis su-,
Chrysogonum au-,
Daylilies su-,
Dicentra sp- su-,
Dodecatheon,
Echinacea su-,

Eupatorium w- su-,
 Ferns (evergreen
 and deciduous),
 Filipendula su-,
 Gloxinia su-,
 Geum su-,
 Gentian su-,
 Geranium sp- su-,
 Galax, ev-,
 Heuchera sp-,
 Heucherella sp-,
 Hosta su-,
 Hakonechloa grass,
 Hellebore sp-,
 Jack in Pulpit sp-,
 Kirengeshoma su-,
 Lysmachia
 (uprights),
 Lamium sp- su-,
 Lamiastrum sp-,
 Lobelia su-,
 Ligularia su- w-,
 Mertenisa sp-,
 Monarda su-,
 Pulmonaria sp-,
 Polygonatum su-,
 Polemonium su-,
 Phlox (div., stol,
 glaberrima) sp-,
 Primula sp-,
 Rheum su-,
 Rodgersia su-,
 Rhodea, Sedum su-,
 Stylophorum sp-,
 Smilacina su-,
 Trillium sp-,

Tiarella sp-,
 Thalictrum, su-,
 Tradescatia su-,
 Tellima su-,
 Tricyrtis, au-, viola
 sp-,
 Tiarella sp-,
 Thalictrum su-,
 Tradescatia su-,
 Tellima su-,
 Tricyrtis au-,
 Viola sp-

Groundcovers

Asarum sp- ev-,
 Aegopodium,
 Ajuga ev-, Arenaria
 ev-, (Irish &
 Scotch Moss),
 Arcostaphylos ev-,
 Ceratostigma,
 Corsican Mint ev-,
 Euonymous
 fortunei,
 Fragaria
 (strawberry),
 Galium,
 Liriope,
 Lily of Valley,
 Lysmachia
 (creeping Jenny)
 Mazus,
 Mondo grass ev-,
 Mitchella ev-,
 Pachysandra ev-,
 Periwinkle sp- ev-,

Selaginalla (spike
 moss) ev-

Vines

Akebia vine su-,
 Ampelopsis su-,
 Bignonia su-,
 Celastrus,
 Clematis sp- su- au—
 Honeysuckle su-,
 Partheonocissus,
 Schizophragma
 (climbing
 hydranges) su-

Glossary

Bloom Time—
 sp-spring,
 su-summer,
 au-autumn,
 ev-evergreen,
 w-wet
 “Any plant with w-
 notation needs
 shade and a damp
 area. Of course,
 this means they
 would not be in
 the same place in
 the garden as the
 camellia that
 should be planted
 in a well-drained
 spot.”

Clara and Fred Hahn Surprised on Fiftieth Anniversary

Clara and Fred Hahn, Past Treasurer of The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, are shown with the Anniversary Cake presented to them at the Judges party held before the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society Winter Show. The party

was held in the lovely home of Dr. Ben and Marjorie Stands. Mildred Robertson and other friends presented the anniversary cake as a "surprise" to Clara and Fred. We all wish the couple many more Happy Anniversaries!



Tidewater Camellia Club Show

Wilmington, NC

February 22, 2003

William M. (Bill) Wilcox, Jr., Chairperson

Blooms Grown in Open

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate
Silver Certificate

Camellia Japonica Large	<i>Drama Girl Var.</i>
Camellia Japonica Medium	<i>Betty Sheffield Var.</i>
Camellia Japonica Small	<i>Black Tie</i>
Camellia Japonica Miniature	<i>Fircone, Var</i>
Best White Bloom	<i>Melissa Ann</i>
Best Reticulata Hybrid	<i>Frank Houser Var</i>
Best Non-reticulata Hybrids	<i>Dr. Zhivago</i>
Best Novice Bloom	<i>Tomorrow's Dawn</i>

Frank Galloway
Brenda & Miles Beach
Brenda & Miles Beach
Brenda & Miles Beach
Frank Galloway
Brenda & Miles Beach
Brenda & Miles Beach
Brenda & Miles Beach
Frank Galloway
Matt Hunter

Blooms Grown Protected

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate
Silver Certificate

Camellia Japonica Large	<i>Elegans Supreme Var</i>
Camellia Japonica Medium	<i>Margaret Davis</i>
Camellia Japonica Small	<i>Little Suzie</i>
Camellia Japonica Miniature	<i>Fircone</i>
Best White Bloom	<i>Elegans's Champagne</i>
Best Reticulata Hybrid	<i>Beth Dean</i>
Best Non-reticulata Hybrid	<i>Julia Var</i>
Best Seedling	<i>Carolyn Phillips</i>

Richard & Katherine Mims
Lew & Annabelle Fetterman
Clara and Fred Hahn
Clara and Fred Hahn
Clara and Fred Hahn
Richard & Katherine Mims
Clara & Fred Hahn
Clara & Fred Hahn
Richard & Katherine Mims
Gene's Nursery

Mid-Carolina Camellia Society Show

Columbia, SC

February 8-9, 2003

Dr. Herbert Racoff, Show Chairperson

SPECIAL AWARDS

Charlotte C. Knox Memorial Award for Best *Valentine Day*
won by Bill & Mildred Robertson:

Jim Pinkerton Memorial Award for Best Non-reticulata Hybrid
Frank Houser, exhibited by Fred and Clara Hahn

Frances Shannon Racoff Memorial Award for Best Formal Double
Purple Swirl, exhibited by Julia Leisenring

Elliott Brogden Memorial Award for best Miniature
Bon Bon Blush, exhibited by Richard & Katherine Mims

OUTSTANDING BLOOM AWARDS

Camellia Japonica (Open)

Sweepstakes: Gold Certificate
Silver Certificate

Nancy Lipham
Frank Galloway

Large/Very Large	<i>Carter's Sunburst Pink</i>	Frank Galloway
Runner-up	<i>Pierate's Pride</i>	Nancy Lipham
Medium	<i>Magic City</i>	Frank Galloway
Runner-up	<i>Margaret Davis</i>	Frank Galloway
Small	<i>Something Beautiful</i>	Frank Galloway
Runner-up	<i>Les Marbury</i>	Frank Galloway
Best White Bloom	<i>Snow Fairy</i>	Betty Brown
Best Bloom By Novice	<i>Otome Pink</i>	Cornelia Williams
Best Local L/VL	<i>Mrs. Jimmy Davis</i>	Bill Supplee
Best Local M/S	<i>Herme Pink</i>	Bill Supplee
Best Reticulata Hybrid	<i>Frank Houser, Var.</i>	Bob & Gail Reese
Non-reticulata Hybrid	<i>Spring Daze</i>	Bob & Gail Reese

Camellia Japonica (Protected)

Sweepstakes:	Gold Certificate	Richard & Katherine Mims
	Silver Certificate	Fred & Clara Hahn
Large/Very Large	<i>Tomorrow P. H. Pink</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Runner-up	<i>Mary Fischer</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
Medium	<i>Sea Foam</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
Runner-up	<i>Ville de Nantes</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Small	<i>Something Beautiful</i>	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Runner-up	<i>Les Marbury</i>	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Miniature	<i>Bon Bon Blush</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
Runner-up	<i>Fragrant Joy</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
Non-reticulata Hybrid	<i>Cile Mitchell</i>	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Runner-up	<i>Julia</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
Best White Bloom	<i>Elegan's Champagne</i>	Mack McKinnon
Best Seedling	2 PC	Richard & Katherine Mims
Best Mutant	<i>Parent-Borem's Gem</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
Best L/VL Reticulata Hybrid	<i>Frank Houser</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Runner-up	<i>Harold L. Paige</i>	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Best L/M/S Reticulata Hybrid	<i>Larry Piet</i>	Annabelle Fetterman
Runner-up	<i>Betty Ridley</i>	Annabelle Fetterman

Charlotte Camellia Society

Charlotte, NC

February 1, 2003

Fred Hahn, Show Chairperson

OUTSTANDING BLOOM AWARDS

Blooms Grown in Open

Sweepstakes:	Gold Certificate	Brenda & Miles Beach
	Silver Certificate	Lee Poe

Camellia Japonica

Large	Dorothy Chester	Brenda & Miles Beach
Runner up	Guillio Nuccio	David & Anna Sheets

Medium	<i>Gov. Mouton</i>	Lee Poe
Runner-up	<i>Dixie Knight</i>	Brenda & Miles Beach
Small	<i>Black Tie Var</i>	Brenda & Miles Beach
Blooms Grown Protected		
Sweepstakes:	Gold Certificate	Richard & Katherine Mims
	Silver Certificate	Annabelle & Lew Fetterman
Camellia Japonica		
Large	<i>Tomorrow's Dawn</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
Runner up	<i>Carter's Sunburst</i>	Annabelle & Lew Fetterman
Medium	<i>Elaine's Betty</i>	Tyler & Oliver Mizzell
Runner-up	<i>Betty Sheffield Silver</i>	Ann & Mack McKinnon
Small	<i>Tammia</i>	Richard & Katherine Mims
Miniature	<i>Fircone Var.</i>	Brenda & Miles Beach
Runner-up	<i>Man Size</i>	Annabelle & Lew Fetterman
Best White	<i>Melissa Ann</i>	Tyler & Oliver Mizzell
Best Reticulata Hybrid	<i>Valentine Day</i>	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Runner-up	<i>Hall's Pride Var.</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Non-reticulata Hybrid	<i>Anticipation</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn



Sea Foam

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Richard C. Mims, Editor
409 Groves St.
Lugoff, SC 29078



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Mr. & Mrs. Geary Serpas
229 Green St.
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Red Hot



Camellias