

# *Atlantic Coast Camellias*

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



*SILVER CHALICE*

# ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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COVER PHOTO  
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*This fine photo of Silver Chalice was taken by Major Doug Simon,  
Norfolk, Virginia.*

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## President's Message

*by Bill Hardwick  
Reynolds, Georgia*

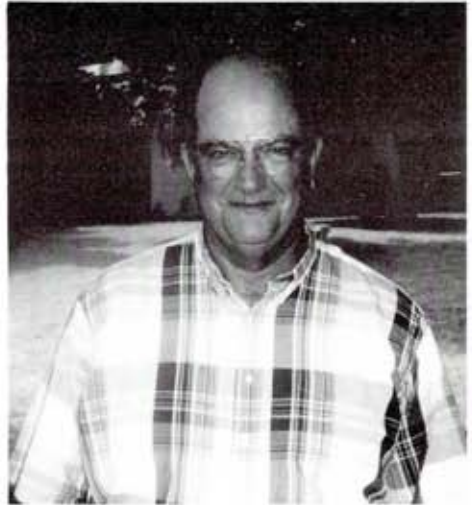
Well, another year of camellia shows has come to an end. As usual the blooms were beautiful and the opportunity to spend time with camellia friends was enriching. This combination is what makes the show season a success.

The weather this winter was certainly one for the record books and we can only wonder what is ahead. The flowers seem thoroughly confused, as do the growers.

The winning blooms were certainly many and varied. This is an indication of the wide selection grown. There was no single variety that dominated the circuit. Old names as well as new ones were represented in a grand style.

Dedication is the key word that most completely describes the camellia enthusiast. Untold hours are spent giving their plants and blooms the TLC required and thousands of miles are traveled to display their blooms for the public, thus introducing "our flower" to others so that the camellia might become even more widely appreciated.

Our summer activities are beginning to take shape. The first



weekend in May is the annual barbeque in Columbia with our picnic and the low country boil to follow. The details for these events, as well as the convention at Myrtle Beach on the 25th and 26th of September, will be mailed out at a later date, so watch your mail. Remember, several of these events have an auction, so don't forget to do some extra grafting, air-layering and rooting, because plants of all varieties are welcome.

Have a healthy and fulfilling summer until we convene again.

## A Special Reminder

*by Warren Thompson  
Georgia Director  
Fort Valley, Georgia*

This Challenge goes out to all Atlantic Coast Camellia Society members who attended the Annual Meeting at Myrtle Beach last year. Remember, you were challenged by me to sign up at least one new member before the next convention this September in Myrtle Beach. Have you met the challenge? As of May 1, our membership is nine less than at Myrtle Beach last year. Everyone knows a friend, relative, neighbor, or Camellia enthusiast who would enjoy being a member of ACCS. The challenge is to ask them. Some of us have met the challenge. Let's all get one new member before the September meeting. I am counting on each of you to make the effort to bring in a new member.



Warren Thompson, far right, talks with Parker Connor, left, and Ed Powers at last year's picnic at Edisto Island.

# Magnolia Camellias

*Written by Drayton Hastie  
Charleston, South Carolina*

*Submitted by Sil Caruso  
Clinton, North Carolina*

The following camellias either were developed by Magnolia Gardens, or were imported from Europe to Magnolia Gardens, mostly in the 1800's. This is probably not a complete list.

Alba Splenders  
Alba Superba  
Alba Supreme  
Ambassador  
Ameldia  
American Beauty  
Anne Alexandre  
Beloe Niede  
Black Prince  
Bonnie Chance  
Boutonniere  
C.N. Hastie  
Captain Martin's Favorite  
Cardinal Richelieu  
Caroline Mickell  
Catherine Catheart  
Claritas Alba  
Columbine  
Conflagration  
Constellation  
Cup of Beauty (U.S.)  
Damozel  
Daybreak  
Dearie Mealing  
Debonair  
Debutante  
Dutchess of Sutherland  
Duke of Burgandy  
Duke of Wellington  
Duke of Windsor

Eleanor Haygood  
Eleanor McGrady  
Elizabeth Arden  
Elizabeth Boardman  
Elizabeth Holmes  
Elizabeth Maybank  
Ella Drayton  
Ellen Doubleday  
Enrico Bettoni  
Evening Star  
Fantasy (South)  
Fascination  
Favorita  
Firebrand  
Firefly  
Galatea  
Gardeniaflora  
General Wade Hampton  
Gigantea  
Glamorous  
H.A. Downing  
H.G. McCord  
Hibiscus  
His Majesty  
Horry Frost  
J.J. Whitfield  
Jeanne D'Arc  
Jersey Rose  
Jessie Katz  
John Harvard

John Illges  
Joseph Holland  
Kathleen Read  
King's Ransom  
LaBelle Peche  
La Boheme  
Lactea Alba  
Lady Charlotte  
Lady De Vere  
Lady Mary Cromartie  
Lady Nancy Adare  
Lady of the Lake  
Lord Ferndale  
Louise Weick  
Magnolia Queen  
Marchioness of Salisbury  
Margaret Higdon  
Marion Mitchell  
Marqis De Montcalm  
Mathotiana  
Meteur  
Mme De Maintenon  
Moonglow  
Morning Mist  
Mrs. Charles Cobb  
Mrs. Freeman Weiss  
Mysterious  
Northern Light  
Patricia Mountbaten  
Pixie

Princess Irene  
Professor Charles S. Sargent  
Queen Victoria  
Rev. John Bennett  
Rev. John G. Drayton  
Revelation  
Rio Rita (Mag. Gard.)  
Robert E. Lee  
Rose Marie  
Rosea Mundi  
Rosea Plena  
Rosita  
Sarah Bernhardt  
Saturnia  
Seraphim  
Surprise  
Tina Gilliard  
Titian  
Torch  
Toreador  
Tiara  
Trilby  
Triphosa  
Triumph  
Troubadour  
Valonia  
Wall Street Red  
White Hope  
William Kendall  
Wondrous

*Mr. S.W. Coruso:*  
*Best Wishes*  
*J. Drayton Harker*

# **Wilmington Camellia Show**

*The Tidewater Camellia Club*

*February 28, 1998*

*950 Blooms Exhibited*

*Ogle Hess, Show Chairman*

Best Large Japonica Open	<b>Lady Laura</b>	Ed & Lu Powers Wilmington, N. C.
Best Medium Japonica Open	<b>Dixie Knight Var.</b>	Parker Connor Edisto Island, S. C.
Best Small Japonica Open	<b>Les Marbury</b>	Ed & Lu Powers Wilmington, N. C.
Best Miniature Open	<b>Grace Albritton</b>	Capt. & Mrs. D. M. Simon Norfolk, Virginia
Best Large Japonica Protected	<b>Swan Lake</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N. C.
Best Medium Japonica Protected	<b>Ville de Nantes</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N. C.
Best Small Japonica Protected	<b>Black Tie Var.</b>	Robert Black
Best Miniature Protected	<b>Mansize</b>	John & Sandra Penny Four Oaks, N. C.
Best Reticulata	<b>Ruta Hagman</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N. C.
Best Hybrid Open	<b>Dr. Zhivago</b>	Ed & Lu Powers Wilmington, N. C.
Best Hybrid Protected	<b>Mona Jury Var.</b>	John & Sandra Penny Four Oaks, N. C.
Best White Bloom Protected	<b>Seaform</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N. C.
Best White Bloom Open	<b>Silver Chalice</b>	Ed & Lu Powers Wilmington, N. C.
Best Bloom By Novice	<b>Ville de Nantes</b>	A. B. Daniel
Best Seedling	<b>Seedling #FG 101</b>	Frank Galloway Bolivia, N. C.

Best Mutant

**TEP #6**

Ed & Lu Powers  
Wilmington, N. C.

Best Bloom by Club Member

**Cinderella**

Frank Galloway  
Bolivia, N. C.

Gold Certificate Open

Parker Connor  
Edisto Island, S. C.

Gold Certificate Protected

Fred & Clara Hahn  
Charlotte, N. C.

Silver Certificate Open

Ed & Lu Powers  
Wilmington, N. C.

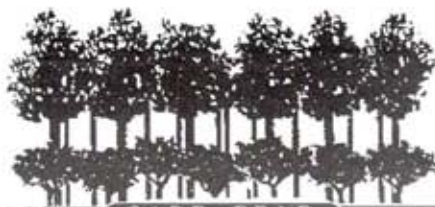
Silver Certificate Protected

John & Sandra Penny  
Four Oaks, N. C.

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Yes, my wife gibbed my Wheaties again this morning!!!



## BOTANICAL GARDEN

### Our Camellia Garden

*by Nancy Smith  
Cape Fear Botanical Garden  
Fayetteville, North Carolina*

The Mary McLaurin Camellia Garden is off to a good start with approximately 143 plants in the ground. Now we are watering-in with vitamins, taking care of transplant shock pruning, and beginning the list for labeling. A lot of these plants are 10 to 15 feet tall with an equal spread. It appears that only 10 percent are suffering any transplant shock. It is amazing to see some of these huge plants not showing signs of even being touched.

Our dig-and-lift operation has been closed down for the growing season and the balance of the plant material will be removed this coming winter. We wish to thank Mr. Paul Whitehurst of Washington, N.C., for his much appreciated assistance in this project. We received wonderful up-dated education from this

gentleman, who has been in the tree-digging business for 23 years.

Our many thanks to Vivian Hollingshed, W. S. Wellons Realty of Spring Lake, N. C., Mr. James Ezzell of Harrells, N. C., and Mr. Robert Wellons of Dunn, N. C. for the use of their trucks and drivers. Also, we wish to thank Mr. Stewart Miller for his volunteer time and the use of his truck.

Mr. Dohn Broadwell allowed us to keep his truck for many weeks and to him we say: "We couldn't have undertaken this without your assistance." All of these folks can be very proud of 'making a difference' in building the camellia garden. They truly went the extra mile.

The camellia garden is not yet open and will not be until next

season. We still have much work to be done. Irrigation is next, and all you volunteers—we could use your help to lay pipe. Please call us.

The wish list for the Camellia Garden includes funds for continuing needs, such as soil amendments, bark, labor, accessory plants (border and ground cover types), plant and ground cover types), plant

labels, etc. We also need benches for sitting areas in the garden, water fountains, statuary, and so forth. We need input.

We are very pleased with our new garden and hope that you will be too. Anyone wishing to help with this continuing project can contact us at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden.

\* \* \* \* \*



ACCS Officers and Directors: Front row: Clarence Gordy, Jeanette Waltz. Back Row: Bill Hardwick, Jim Smelley, Bob Reece, Esther Smith, Fritz Morsink, Fred Hahn.

## The Dahlene's of Aiken—Sharing Is The Theme

*by Jim Darden  
Clinton, North Carolina*

Like many of our new neighbors here in the South, Marie and Paul Dahlene are transplants from the far north. Unlike many of these neighbors, the Dahlene's are not new. They migrated here long ago when Paul was one of the first engineers at the Savannah Nuclear Power Plant.

Even today the Dahlenes' crisp accent tells instantly that they were not originally southern. In fact, I have known them for about 15 years now, and I can't ever remember hearing either of them say 'Y'all.' Marie apparently did not

learn that omnipresent southern contraction growing up in Pittsburgh, and Paul certainly did not pick it up in Minnesota.

But one thing that instantly impresses me every time I'm lucky enough to be in their presence is that they are truly dedicated to each other, and they are a Lady and a Gentleman in the fullest southern tradition. If Mr. Webster would like to perfectly illustrate those terms in his dictionary, he should put pictures of Marie and Paul there. And as I interviewed them in March at our



Paula and Marie Dahlene show off one of their prize winning blooms in Wilmington.

Fayetteville Camellia Show another theme surfaced that probably explains their wonderful union best—Sharing.

It was 47 years ago, 1951, when the young married couple moved with DuPont to the Savannah River project. Suddenly thrust into the subtropical flora of the coastal South, the Dahlene's marveled that, unlike the snowpack of the northern winters, in Aiken there were beautiful broadleaf evergreens growing and even blooming during the depths of the winter. What were these extraordinary plants, they asked? "Camellias" responded their neighbors, and soon a love affair with the new plant began.

In their first two years in Aiken the

Dahlene's collected seven Camellia varieties for their landscape. They were "Mathotiana," "Professor Sergeant", "Pink Perfection," "Cardinal Richlieu," "Debutante," "Alba Plena," and "Berenice Boddy." But soon a frigid reminder of their youth came south, and a great freeze killed most of the new Camellias.

Not to be deterred, the Dahlene's were motoring to Columbia one day when they passed what appeared to be a beautiful Camellia garden. They could not tell if it was a commercial nursery or private garden. Overwhelmed, they turned around and went back to investigate. That stroke of good fortune would

Marie enjoys the Fayetteville Camellia Show with Donna Shepard.



Paul and Marie are shown here at the Beaufort Stew Cookout at Santee, S. C.



change their lives.

There were so many beautiful blooming camellias (remember, nursery stock was all in the ground in those days, to be dug and balled and burlapped when sold) that Paul went to the door and inquired. The gentleman who answered was Mr. Bill Arrant, and his response was "No" they are not a nursery for sale, but "Yes" please come in and let me show them to you. The love of Camellias was infectious, and the Dahlene's were hooked again.

One important part of the garden that Paul and Marie noticed was a sunken greenhouse, full of extraordinary camellias, with only the glass roof above ground. Mr. Arrant told them that he did not heat the greenhouse, but even during a recent 12° F freeze the plants did not suffer. It was clear that the

Dahlene's would try again to grow camellias, and they would have a greenhouse.

Soon construction began in their backyard in Aiken. Paul built an 11' x 14' greenhouse, ordered from Oregon and made of redwood and glass. It quickly became too small. Next, he built a Turner Greenhouse (the company I worked for in Goldsboro, N.C., for three years in the 1970's) which was 14' x 22' in size. That too became too small for the Dahlene's camellia collection.

The final greenhouse was ordered from Mobile, Alabama, and was built on the old VPI gothic arch design. It was larger, measuring 18' x 36'. After later adding another 8', the final structure was 18' x 44'.

The Dahlene's have enjoyed camellias in their landscape and greenhouse ever

since. Most of the blooms they take to shows are from the greenhouse, where about 1/3 of the plants are in the ground and 2/3 are in containers, which can be taken outside in April and brought back into the comfort of the plastic-covered enclosure in November. The Dahlene's prefer the *C. reticulatas*, which produce the huge blooms that have become their favorites.

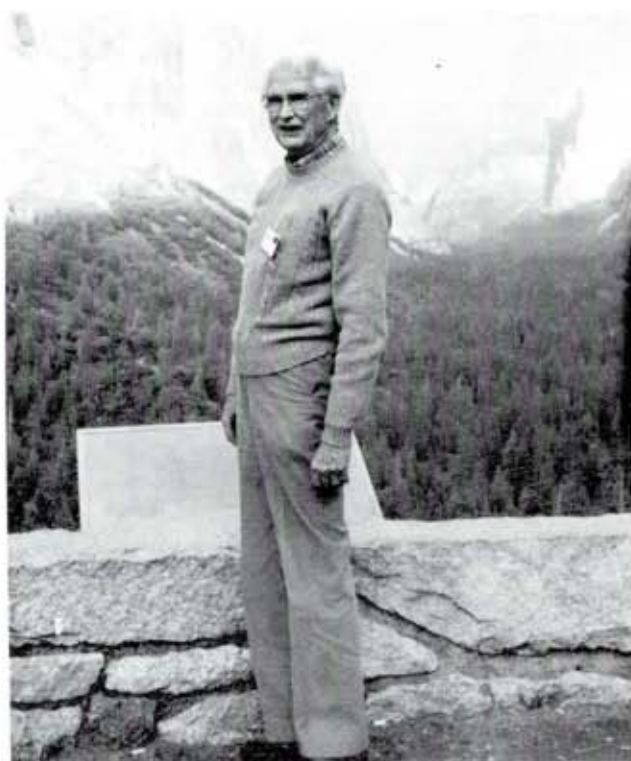
Paul recommends planting camellias by digging a hole three times the size of the rootball of the plant. Then he mixes a liberal amount of organic matter, peat moss or humus, into the topsoil, along with perlite and coarse sand for porosity. He fertilizes twice a year with a cheap, fast-acting 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 fertilizer, and then every three weeks during the blooming season with a water

soluable 20-20-20 fertilizer.

Pathogens finds their way into this camellia world like all others. Paul sprays with Volks Oil once each year for scale, and then Cygon if needed. Like virtually everyone nowadays, petal blight has invaded here too. Paul uses sanitation rather than chemicals to fight this insidious pest, spending time on his knees picking up spent blooms every day.

One key to producing beautiful blooms is Marie's practice of disbudding. She first removes all but one prominent bud per terminal. Then, later, she removes even more. The relative few remaining will be larger and finer show flowers, she contends. She has also been known to prune the plants radically as well, cutting more viciously

Paul Dahlene visits a national park while traveling to a camellia meeting.



sometimes than Paul can stomach. But, the results can be seen every year in camellia shows all over the South.

The Dahlene's landscape now contains a fine collection of plants, including japonica and sasanqua camellias, evergreen and deciduous azaleas, and many other fine companion plants. Their favorite outdoor camellias are "Berenice Boddy", "Lady Clare", "Debutante," "Pink Perfection," "Adolph Audusson," "Stewart's White Supreme," "Mathotiana Supreme," "Don Mac," "and Marie's favorite "Amabel Landsdel."

But, the greenhouse varieties are their favorites. Paul began growing them soon after the greenhouse was built, and Marie, vowing not to be a camellia widow, joined in the growing efforts soon thereafter. As in everything they do, 'sharing' was the key.

The Dahlene's favorite greenhouse C. japonica varieties are any of the Tomorrow's, particularly "Tomorrow Marbury's Light Pink," along with "Kramer's Supreme" (which they like for the fragrance in the greenhouse), "Silver Chalice," "Ville de Nantes," and any of the Betty Sheffields, especially the new "Elaine's Betty."

Many of the great new reticulatas call the Dahlene's greenhouse home. They are particularly fond of "Harold Paige," "Jean Pursel," "Frank Houser," "John Hunt," and "Hall's Pride."

In addition to camellia growing, the Dahlene's other great hobby in their retirement is traveling. They are about to embark on an eleven day visit to Mexico in April. The camellia circuit plays perfectly into their plans, and they enjoy at

least a dozen shows all over the country every camellia season, serving as judges at most. They feel, as do I, that you meet the best friends and most interesting people in camellia circles.

The Dahlene's strongly recommend that camellia lovers join their local camellia club, along with the ACCS and the ACS. It is in these groups that they meet friends and learn more about the flowers they love. Particularly in the local clubs, they have learned about gibbing, showing and culturing camellias by working on committees and as clerks at their local Aiken Camellia Show. They share freely of their knowledge, experiences, and scions with their friends.

As I talked to Paul and Marie, the word which repeatedly surfaced was "sharing." They share their love of camellias, traveling and each other. I am sure it is the glue that holds them together as the wonderful couple that they are. We can be proud to have people like the Dahlene's in our circle of camellia friends.

## Book News From China

*by Jean Comber  
Pensacola, Florida*

A new camellia book "The World's Best Camellia Cultivars" written by Mr. Gao Jiyin and Mrs. Chen Shaoyun, all authoritative persons in the Chinese camellia field, will be published soon. Professor Chang Hongta, the famous taxonomist for the genus *Camellia*, and Thomas J. Savige, International Registrar for the genus *Camellia*, have written forewords for the book. There are over 1,000 camellia cultivars described in the book, and 750 are illustrated in full color, with sections on species, taxonomy, history, culture, breeding, diseases, and pest control practices.

This is the first publication which combines Chinese camellia cultivars with the world's camellias as described in China, each cultivar being identified in Chinese characters, pinyin transliteration and English together with its description. Thus the book will be useful for the world's camellia enthusiasts and gardeners for identification of camellia cultivars or for a good reading or to add to library collections.

The book is printed with an elegant design and bound with hard cover. The color illustrations are produced by a technique that eliminates reflected light. It has over 200 pages using the best art paper. It could be said that the quality of the book fully compares with the best from other countries of the world. Its size is 23.5cm x 26.5cm.

The price of one copy of the book, including mailing cost, is \$75.00 US. You can e-mail Mr. Jiyin at [risf@fyptt.zjta.net.cn](mailto:risf@fyptt.zjta.net.cn).

If requiring a copy, please send order complete with cheque directly to:

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China 311400

# Landscape Fertilizer Tips

*by Kim Powell*

*Extension Landscape Specialist*

*N. C. State University*

Many of our landscape plants, once established, require very little additional nutrients in order to stay alive and perform at reasonable expectations. The following thoughts should be given consideration the next time someone asks for a fertilizer recommendation and you are tempted to give the standard "10-10-10" answer.

**Fertilizer needs to be at the right place at the right time.** Active root growth periods for woody ornamentals are fall (October-November) and late winter/early spring (February-March). Shoot and stem growth peak in the spring and summer. Know what the nutrients will encourage and match this with the appropriate type (water soluble or slow release) fertilizer and get it down at the right time. If you want to encourage root growth on established trees (and camellias), these are good times to put the fertilizer down.

**A newly transplanted balled-and-burlapped plant should not be fertilized with a nitrogen content fertilizer.** Research indicated that the plant must regain its original "root shoot ratio" before it can really uti-

lize nitrogen. In fact, the tests showed that additional nitrogen during this period actually did more damage than good. On an average, it takes one year for every inch of trunk diameter for a tree to regain the roots it had before it was dug. A 5" caliper transplanted tree (or camellia) will therefore take five years to re-establish its full root system. A plant dug in a nursery or landscape can lose 80-95% of its root system. In order for the plant to survive transplanting, it needs root growth. . .not shoot or stem promotion. During this establishment period, any deficiencies should be addressed with fertilizer. A soil test or foliar sample will answer these questions. Ideally, the lime or phosphorus was incorporated before planting, as we know how poorly they move in clay soils. In my opinion, the key for root promotion is a good planting technique and adequate moisture during the growing periods. This philosophy stresses good soil drainage, aeration, and available moisture.

**Some soil tests do not test for nitrogen.** With the exception of centipede grass, all ornamental nutrient

recommendations are based on one pound of nitrogen per 100 sq. ft. If you look at your old soil test reports, you might find that every nutrient recommendation was for the equivalent of 1 lb. of nitrogen. Examples from old soil tests are: 12.5 lbs. of 8-0-15, or 10 lbs. of 10-10-10-, or 5 lbs of 20-10-10, or it might simply say one pound of nitrogen, per 1000 sq. ft. The computer is set for 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. for centipede grass.

**Fertilize during the active growing stage of a tree or shrub.** The general recommendation by horticulturists is 1-2 pounds of nitrogen

per year per 1000 sq. ft. where active growth is desired in plants. Once your plant gets to a manageable size or to a mature stage, you can reduce the fertilizer. This is especially true for trees and shrubs growing around turf areas. Turf grasses typically are fertilized several times per year and nearby trees and shrubs seem to get their fair share of these nutrients. There is usually a direct relationship between fertilizer rates and subsequent pruning. Since many ornamentals are surrounded by organic mulch the broadcast application methods work well.

Fred Hahn and Dr. Dan Nathan converse at the Myrtle Beach meeting.



## Camellia Lover's 'Children' Saved

*by Melissa Clement, Staff Writer  
The Fayetteville Observer Times  
Fayetteville, N. C.*

Mary McLaurin was heartsick when she knew she could not save her beloved camellia garden. For 48 years she has cared for the more than 300 plants at her home on the Pamlico River near Bath.

When McLaurin, who is 83, sold her property and moved into town to be near her sister, she didn't know what would become of her garden. She could only visit it. PCS Phosphate Company, a company that mines phosphates for fertilizer at a nearby strip mine, had bought the land and cut some of the trees, leaving the camellias to be scalded by the sun and choked by underbrush. The future looked bleak until other camellia lovers came to the rescue.

Horticulturist Ross Boyer asked Clay Carter of Beaufort Community College to help find a home for the plants. Carter took Jim Darden, a member of the Fayetteville Camellia Club, to see the garden. Darden got in touch with the director of the Cape Fear Botanical Garden, Greg Nace.

A camellia garden was one of the future projects of the garden, but no one thought they would be given plants that were already 12 to 15 feet

tall. When Nace contacted McLaurin, she offered the whole collection.

"The camellias are like my children," says McLaurin, a widow with no children. "I always kept them tagged, and when I walked through them I would say 'Oh, you're doing fine' and things like that. I hated to leave them, but I couldn't look after them anymore. I know every one of them. They've become part of me over the years. I couldn't stand the thought of them being left to choke with vines.

McLaurin fell in love with camellias after seeing a neighbor's camellia as a child.

Today her plants are in place in Fayetteville and irrigation and drainage lines are being installed. Grass is being planted in the walkway that will be a half-mile long.

A week ago the garden received a \$25,000.00 gift for the camellia garden from Mrs. Elizabeth Devane Shirley, whose husband, Duncan J. Devane, was one of the pioneers of camellia culture. The donations came through Charles von Rosenberg, on the behalf of Mrs. Shirley, who was married to Devane.

“Duncan (Devane) and Sam Hutaff were the two people who first became interested in the new spectacular varieties of camellias when they came out in the 1940’s,” von Rosenberg says. “Duncan and Sam began taking cuttings and propagating camellias and distributing them around Fayetteville. Duncan was the first president of the North Carolina

Camellia Society and one of the first of the Fayetteville Camellia Club and was active in the American Camellia Society. It’s been 50 years ago and we need to let people know how it all got started. We thought the camellia garden would be a wonderful way to honor some of these pioneers of the camellia culture.

\* \* \* \* \*



Pat and Tom Evans, and Anne and Lee Poe at last year's Myrtle Beach meeting.

# **The Atlanta Camellia Show**

*North Georgia Camellia Society*

*February 21-22, 1998*

*1274 Blooms Displayed*

*John Newsome, Show Chairman*

Best Local Japonica Open	<b>Gov. Mouton</b>	Leon F. Silver Atlanta, Georgia
Runner-up	<b>Astronaut</b>	Rev. Bonneau Dickson Atlanta, Georgia
Best Out-Of-Town Japonica	<b>Nuccio's Pink Lace</b>	Lillian & C. M. Gordy Ocala, Florida
Runner-up	<b>Miss Charleston Var.</b>	Dr. & Mrs. Dan Nathan Fort Valley, Georgia
Best VL Japonica Protected	<b>Tomorrow's Lisa</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N. C.
Best Large Japonica Protected	<b>Helen Bower</b>	Bill & Mildred Robertson Ninety Six, S. C.
Best Medium Japonica Protected	<b>Lady Kay</b>	Bill & Mildred Robertson Ninety Six, S. C.
Best Small Japonica Protected	<b>Little Babe</b>	Liz Jeffares Meridian, Mississippi
Best Miniature	<b>Grace Albritton</b>	Cheryl & Warren Thompson Fort Valley, Georgia
Runnerup	<b>Fircone Var.</b>	John Newsome Atlanta, Georgia
Best Reticulata Protected	<b>Frank Houser Var.</b>	Jim & Elaine Smelley Moss Point, Mississippi
Runner-up	<b>Frank Houser</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N. C.
Best Hybrid	<b>Rose Bouquet</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N. C.
Runner-up	<b>Mona Jury</b>	Jim & Elaine Smelley Moss Point, Mississippi
Best White Bloom	<b>Silver Chalice</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N. C.

Best Novice Bloom	<b>Bob Hope</b>	Mary Alice Lawrence Fayetteville, Georgia
Best Tray of Three Japonicas	<b>Tammia</b>	Dr. & Mrs. Dan Nathan Fort Valley, Georgia
Best Tray of Three Reticulatas	<b>Miss Tulare</b>	Frank Jamison Fort Valley, Georgia
Best Tray of Five Different		Jim & Elaine Smelley Moss Point, Mississippi
Gold Certificate Open		Lillian & C. M. Gordy Ocala, Florida
Gold Certificate Protected		George & Jane Griffin Nashville, Tennessee
Silver Certificate Open		Miles & Brenda Beach Mt. Pleasant, S. C.
Silver Certificate Protected		Jim & Elaine Smelley Moss Point, Mississippi

\* \* \* \* \*

Camellias on the lawn at  
Oak Island Plantation, The  
Home of Parker and Amy  
Connor, at Edisto Island,  
S. C.



## No Blooms, Roger

*by Roger Mercer, Garden Editor  
The Fayetteville Observer  
Fayetteville, North Carolina*

Dear Roger,

Could you please help me with a camellia that does not bloom? My camellia was professionally planted in December, 1993. It was probably in a bad location, a windy, shady, northeastern exposure.

The plant is now three feet high. It often looks yellowish and has withered leaves. It is well mulched with pine bark.

Buds may appear on my camellia, but they soon drop off. I use 8-8-8 fertilizer in March. I was told to foot prune now (April) and transplant next fall. Can you help me?

My sasanquas are six feet tall. They do great against a west-facing brick wall. Two smaller camellias do well fairly near the brick walls—north and west. Please help.

Charles

Dear Charles,

I don't know what is wrong with your camellia, except that it hasn't established itself very well.

Sometimes yellowing leaves mean too much exposure to sun. But I suspect that your plant is set a little too deep and is struggling to form a new, shallower root system.

### YOUR GARDEN



**Roger Mercer**  
**The Fayetteville Observer**

Setting the plant just a bit higher in the soil, say 2 inches higher, may help the plant begin to grow properly. Then again, that may not be the problem at all.

I can say with some assurance that the leaves probably are losing water faster than the roots are taking it up. That's what usually causes yellowing, desiccation, bud drop, and potentially death.

Sometimes direct sun exposure is what's taking out the water. Sometimes it's wind, but not usually. Sometimes the roots just aren't taking up enough water. I think that is the case here.

Some cultivated varieties of camellias are far more susceptible to the problem you describe than others. Such varieties need more

shade and protection from drying winds than others for the foliage to be really healthy.

The suggestion that you root prune before moving the camellia is a good one. Cutting around the roots in a

circle about ten inches or a foot from the trunk will force roots to form a compact ball which will move more easily next fall with little damage to the roots.

\* \* \* \* \*



Dr. Dave Schiebert and Dr. Luther Baxter discuss camellia matters at an annual meeting in Myrtle Beach.

## Perfect Camellias In Four Count

*by Dr. Bruce Williams, Director  
New Hanover County Arboretum and Extension Service  
Wilmington, North Carolina*

Camellias are as tough as they are beautiful. This year has been extraordinarily mild and, so far, perfect for camellias. Many novice growers unintentionally kill their plants with improper planting techniques. I rarely see properly planted and cultivated camellias killed by cold, improper pruning, insects or diseases. Incorrect soil preparation, poor planting technique, and poor plant placement will kill new plants faster than you can say "weedeater."

Camellias require four components for vigorous growth: Air, Light, Water, and Nutrients. Good air drainage for the shoot and root system is essential. Poor air drainage combines with poor protection can kill your plants. Low area plantings will be more severely damaged by freezing weather than more elevated sites. Plants on unprotected southern or eastern exposures will often exhibit greater freeze damage than unprotected western or northern exposure plantings. Many varieties of camellia will tolerate 5 or 10 F temperatures without serious cold damage, and even if many of the above ground stems are killed, the stump (with proper care) will usually regenerate a fairly decent semblance of the



**"THE PLANT DOCTOR"**

original in two or three years. Plant using natural elevations for best air drainage and on protected north or west exposures for minimum winter kill.

Light is necessary for healthy camellia growth. Ideal light conditions for camellias is intermittent shade of full sun throughout the entire day. The soft light from a mature stand of long leaf pine is nearly ideal. However, camellias will tolerate a wide spectrum of light conditions, from full sun to moderate shade. Camellias receiving insufficient light will be lanky, lack dense foliage, produce poor bloom yields, and are often prone to severe scale insect infestation or disease problems.

Water is essential for healthy plant

growth. Excessive water will drown the plant or induce sickly insect and disease prone plants. Water is most critical to new plantings. Apply at least 2 to 5 gallons of water per week per plant for the first six months after planting. Once plants are established with a good root system, for optimum growth ensure that plants receive at least 0.5 gallon of water per square foot of canopy cover per week either by irrigation or natural rainfall.

Camellias plants will survive (and thrive in some soils) in most areas of the southeast on natural rainfall. Never subject plants to extended periods in standing water. This will predispose the plants to severe disease pressure and root rots. For optimum camellia growth, use a raised bed (8 to 14 inches above grade) amended with generous quantities of well-rotted compost, peat moss, or other organic matter to provide the best root atmosphere. Be sure the organic matter is thoroughly mixed with native soil. The raised bed will "perch" the root system of the camellia above puddled water and allow for improved aeration of the root system. Organic matter will help hold water and nutrients in the soil without unnecessarily predisposing the plant to root rots.

Proper soil pH and soil nutrient content are critical for optimum growth and healthy plants. Camellias are light feeders, but the soil must

be properly amended so roots can chemically extract the nutrients needed for healthy growth. A soil pH between 5.5 and 6.5 is optimum for vigorous healthy camellias. Soil test with your Cooperative Extension Service, or in the absence of a soil test, add and thoroughly mix 2-3 cups of dolomitic limestone per 100 square feet of plant bed. The addition of phosphorus (bonemeal, 0-20-0, or 0-46-0) will also aid in rapid root establishment. Plants are best fertilized lightly in March, June, and September using a slow release fertilizer (e.g., 18-6-12, 15-5-10, 16-4-8). Excessive fertilization can cause disease problems, so feed camellias sparingly.

Note: Dr. Bruce Williams, The Plant Doctor, is then Hanover County Cooperative Extension and Arboretum Director. Send your gardening questions or comments to him at 6206 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, N. C. 28403-3822, or, you can E-mail him at [cbwillia@newhanov.ces.ncsu.edu](mailto:cbwillia@newhanov.ces.ncsu.edu). You can also contact the North Carolina Cooperative Extension website at [www.ces.ncsu.edu](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu) for an extensive listing of horticultural sites. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if requesting information or a reply.

## **ACCS Annual Meeting**

*by Fred Hahn*

*Charlotte, North Carolina*

Be sure to make plans now to attend the 1998 annual meeting of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in Myrtle Beach. A special mailing will be made soon to members with registration information. You must have reservations at the hotel by July 25, 1998, to be assured a room.

**What?** ACCS Annual Meeting for 1998

**Where?** Sand Castle Motel, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

**Dates?** September 25-26, 1998

**Phone Number?** (800) 626-1550

**Activities:** Friday, September 25—Catered Seafood Dinner

Saturday Morning, September 26— General Meeting  
Plant Auction

Saturday Evening, September 26— Banquet  
Speaker: Dr. Jerry Hogsette  
Entomologist  
Gainesville, Florida

## 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.*

# **These Guys Will Sell You A CAMELLIA**



**Our trusty auctioneers, Buck Mizzell and Bill Robertson, will be in Myrtle Beach to conduct the annual plant auction on Saturday morning, just after the general meeting. Plan to be there and bid on one of these great Camellias.**

# Editor's Column

*by Jim Darden*

*Clinton, North Carolina*

Greetings from hot, hot, hot North Carolina on this early summer day. I apologize for being a bit late mailing this edition of the journal. My April was consumed with work and azalea sales. Then in May I went with Bruce Williams on a ten-day garden tour of southern England. So, time has been very limited. My goal was to submit the journal to the printer before leaving for England, but I was unable to finish in time. I hope to be back on schedule before the fall (September) edition is due.



The September issue will be very important since our annual meeting in Myrtle Beach will be held later during that month. We will enjoy the usual great hospitality on Friday night and Saturday morning with the keynote address by Dr. Jerry Hoggsette. Jerry is an entomologist from Gainesville, Florida. He is not only well known for his expertise on insects, but also is very active in state and regional camellia functions. I am sure we will all enjoy his program, and will learn a lot as well.

One topic that Dr. Hoggsett will undoubtedly discuss with us is his Internet homepage for the Gainesville club. That camellia

group has a wonderful website which can be accessed through a hotlink in the American Camellia Society website. Gainesville has over 50 camellia blooms on their page which you can view, and even print in living color on your home computer.

In addition to this, the Gainesville homepage lists all of the winning blooms from the 1998 Gainesville Camellia Show. Imagine, logging into a website and being able to see all of your show winners. If all local camellia clubs would do likewise, people all over the world could see all of the winning blooms from our shows each year.

President Bill Hardwick has appointed me and Warren Thompson to investigate the possibility of the ACCS creating a homepage. We need your input. If you have any information on this topic, or perhaps a physical location where a website can reside, or any other suggestions regarding this idea, please contact me or Warren before the September meeting. Not only would it be a tremendous service to the camellia lovers around the world, but I think an internet site for our society would encourage many people to join our organization. What are your thoughts?

September Journal. I saw lots of unbelievable camellia specimens in the English gardens at Tresco, Kew, Wisley, Trellisick, Trebah, and several other great gardens. Many were two stories high, huge specimens unlike any I have ever seen here in America. It was quite extraordinary, and I will report to you at length in the next issue.

Until then, work hard on those camellias this summer so we will have lots of spectacular blooms for the fall and winter shows. I will look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach.

I mentioned my England trip, and hope to prepare an article on the camellias of England for the

Sincerely,

*Jim*

.....



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