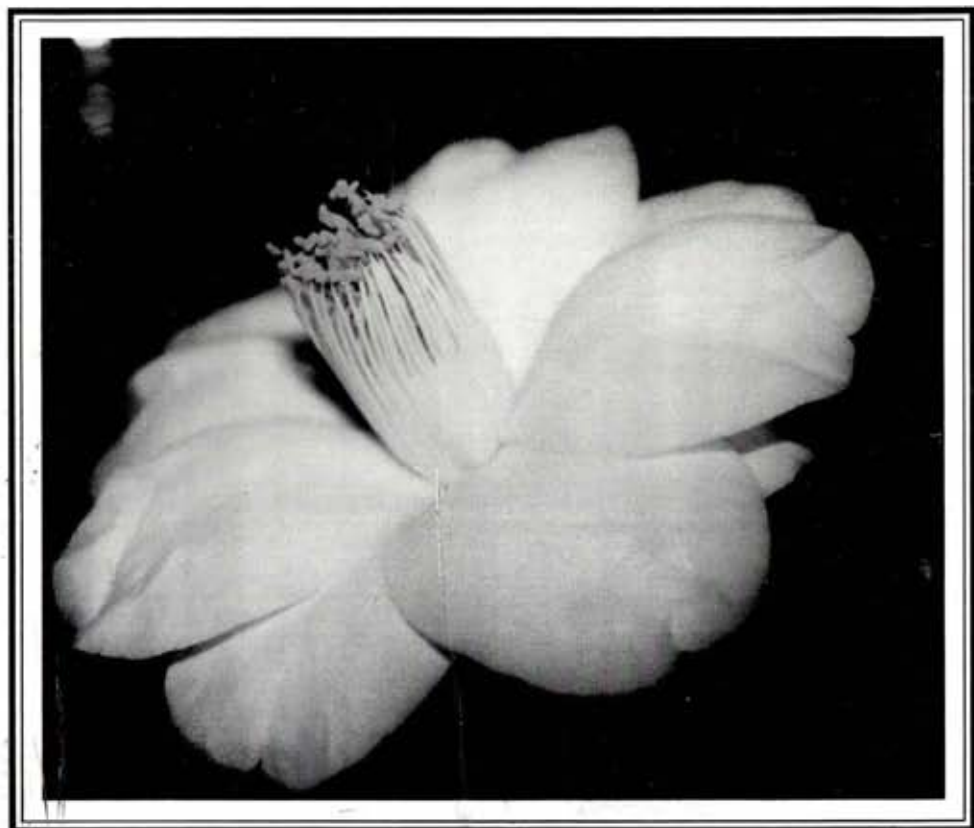


Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Camellia japonica 'Sudie Blanchard'

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ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1998 - 1999

PRESIDENT	Jeannette Waltz P.O. Box 60, Route 606 Hadensville, Va. 23067 (804) 547-3240 dickjan@alcnnet.com
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HISTORIAN	Pat Pinkerton 631 Hite Road Lugoff, S.C. 29078 (803) 438-6486
EDITOR	Jim Darden P. O. Box 1087 Clinton, N. C. 28329 (910) 592-1424 (910) 592-3725 jdarden@sampson.cc.nc.us

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COVER PHOTO
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*Camellia japonica 'Sudie Blanchard' was photographed by
Doug Simon at the 1998 Fayetteville Camellia Show.*

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Teeing-off With Camellias

By Dr. Bruce Williams

Chairman, New Hanover County Extension Service

Director, New Hanover County Arboretum

Wilmington, North Carolina

And

Jim Darden

Chairman, Horticulture Technology Department

Sampson Community College

Clinton, North Carolina

No plant offers more color to a southern golf course landscape than fall or winter blooming camellias. The camellia is one of the few flowering shrubs that flowers only during the cooler seasons of the year. The large blossom is beautiful and tough and will last up to three weeks under cool, but not freezing, weather conditions. Few plants can compete with the beauty of a camellia bloom during a time when so little color is visible in the landscape.

Camellias are coarse textured evergreen broadleaf woody shrubs native to Asia. The lustrous dark green foliage makes a wonderful backdrop to a golf green or tee year around. Camellias generally prefer protected, partially shaded sites, but large, vigorous old plants can often be found growing in open areas on sandy drought-prone soils.

The most common species of



“THE PLANT DOCTOR”

camellia found on golf courses and home landscapes is *Camellia japonica*, or, the Japanese camellia. The Japanese camellia produces large blossoms (5 inches or more in diameter) beginning in early October and continuing as late as April. Choose varieties (Table 1) to give color to bland-looking areas near tees or greens. Thousands of varieties of the Japanese camellia are registered by the

American Camellia Society, but a relative few are available through the nursery trade.

Fall color can be beautifully achieved with another common species of camellia. *Camellia sasanqua* or *Sasanqua* (pronounced sa-san'-kwa) camellia produces a spectacle of color during the cool days and nights of autumn. While many people refer to the varieties of *Camellia*

japonica as "Camellias," and varieties of *Camellia sasanqua* as "Sasanquas," remember that Sasanquas are also true camellias. Sasanquas bloom earlier in the fall (September through December) and produce leaves and blooms (2 to 3 inches in diameter) that are smaller and more refined than the Japanese camellia. The *Sasanqua* camellia, however, does have a special place on the golf course

Lawanda Brogden holds a magnificent head-table bloom at the 1999 Coastal Carolina Camellia Show at the Citadel Mall in Charleston.

(photo by Shepherd)



Our top-notch auctioneer, Buck Mizzell, takes a bid for a plant at the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society spring picnic at the home of Amy and Parker Conner, Oak Island Plantation, on Edisto Island, S.C.

(photo by Shepherd)



with its fall color show (Table 2).

These two species of camellia are sometimes difficult to separate. The underside of the *Sasanqua* camellia petiole (or leaf stem) will have a very fine brown hairy appearance whereas the same area on the Japanese Camellia will be

absolutely smooth and without hairs.

Temperatures below 32 degrees F. can turn nearly any open camellia blossom to brown mush. However, the unopened flower buds are rarely injured unless temperatures plunge below 20 degrees F.

Temperatures below 20 degrees F. can cause severe damage to buds and the plants. Plants that have been killed back to the ground by hard freezes often reappear the following summer as a profusion of water sprouts at the base of the dead plant. If this happens to your plants, remove all dead shoots as soon as possible to prevent spread of fungal diseases to the healthy tissue.

Dr. W. L. Ackerman at the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., has succeeded in hybridizing camellia species to produce varieties with greater cold tolerance. In

October, 1992, Dr. Ackerman released nine cold hardy hybrid cultivars into the nursery trade. However, do not run down to your local garden center expecting to see these new varieties. It will take 5 to 8 years for nurserymen to produce sufficient numbers of plants to market.

Camellias will provide a beautiful backdrop on a golf course, but choose a planting site that will provide some shade in summer or winter, protection from early morning winter sun and wind, and provides good soil water drainage. Camellias



Past ACCS President Ed Powers explains the fine points of Camellia growing at the Charleston Camellia show in January.

(photo by Shepherd)

will often do very well in areas that would not support other flowering shrubs. Plant camellias under tall pine trees or on the north side of a structure will normally fulfill these conditions. Camellias do poorly in wet soils so plant with good drainage in mind.

Choose plants with good branch structure and the greatest number of healthy leaves. A healthy top is usually a good indicator of a well-developed root system. Check for insect scales and leaf spot diseases on the leaves and make sure the root ball has numer-

ous white fleshy roots. If containerized plants have very large roots (greater than a pencil) encircling the inside of the pot, the plant is likely root-bound. Avoid root-bound plants since these plants will likely be more susceptible to pest, disease, and other problems in the future. A healthy 1-gallon plant will out grow a large root-bound 3-gallon plant in a single season. Plants that are at least two years old and 18" to 254" tall transplant best.

(To be continued. . .)



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.*

Coastal Carolina Camellia Show

Charleston, South Carolina

Best Large Japonica Open	<i>Cleve James</i>	Parker Connor Edisto Island, SC
Runner-Up	<i>Steve Blount Var.</i>	Parker Connor
Best Medium Japonica Open	<i>Ville de Nantes</i>	Jerry & Bob Weise
Runner-Up	<i>Margaret Davis</i>	Parker Connor
Best Small Japonica Open	<i>Something Beautiful</i>	Parker Connor
Runner-Up	<i>Little Babe Var.</i>	Parker Connor
Best Large Japonica Protected	<i>Tomorrow Park Hill Fim.</i>	Pat Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
Runner-Up	<i>Nuccioís Pink Lace</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, NC
Best Medium Japonica Protected	<i>Elaineís Betty</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Runner-Up	<i>Alyne Brothers</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Small Japonica Protected	<i>Grace Albritton</i>	Ann & Mack McKinnon Lugoff, SC
Runner-Up	<i>Little Susie</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Reticulata Open	<i>Valentineís Day Var.</i>	Parker Connor
Best Reticulata Protected	<i>Hallis Pride</i>	Mrs. Elliott Brogden Columbia, SC
Best Hybrid Open	<i>Waltz Time Var.</i>	Parker Connor
Best Hybrid Protected	<i>Joe Nuccio</i>	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Best White Bloom Protected	<i>Ruffian</i>	Pat Pinkerton
Best White Bloom Open	<i>Silver Cloud</i>	Miles & Brenda Beach Panama City, FL
Best Novice Bloom	<i>Donckelarii</i>	Cathy & Louie Garvin
Best Miniature	<i>Fircone</i>	Mrs. Elliott Brogden
Best 'Miss Charleston' Open		Rupert Drews Charleston, SC

Best 'Miss Charleston'
Protected

Pat Pinkerton

Best Seedling

Miles & Brenda Beach

Gold Certificate Open

Parker Connor

Gold Certificate Protected

Annabelle & Lew
Fetterman, Clinton, NC

Silver Certificate Open

Miles & Brenda Beach

Silver Certificate Protected

Fred & Clara Hahn

Total Blooms – 1064

Submitted by: Donna Shepherd, Secretary
Coastal Carolina Camellia Society

*ACCS President
Jeanette Waltz
sets up a camellia
booth at the
Maymont Flower
& Garden Show.
The booth is a
promotion aimed
at increasing
membership in
Camellia societ-
ies.*

(photo by Waltz)



The History of a Nursery Concept

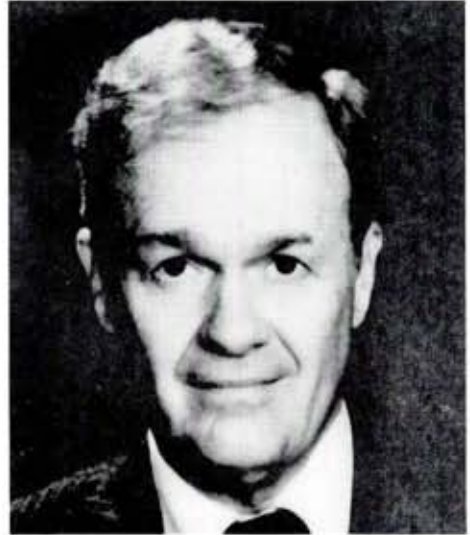
By Ray Bond
Dallas, Texas

Part I: The Niche

In the 1970's and 1980's, Dr. William Ackerman and Dr. Clifford Parks separately began development of camellias that could withstand temperatures below those *C. japonicas* and *C. sasanquas* currently available at that time. Dr.'s Ackerman and Parks were successful in their hybridizing and developed winter-hardy *C. japonica* camellias that could withstand temperatures down to -5°F and *C. hybrids* to -10°F and even -15°F for a few of these hybrids.

With these successes, a new market niche opened where, previously, camellias could only be dreamed about prior to introduction of winter-hardy camellias. Marginal areas of zone 7 opened to camellias. Cold winter forbidden locales (zone 6) opened up. Excellent markets, primarily on the East and West Coasts opened up with growing demand.

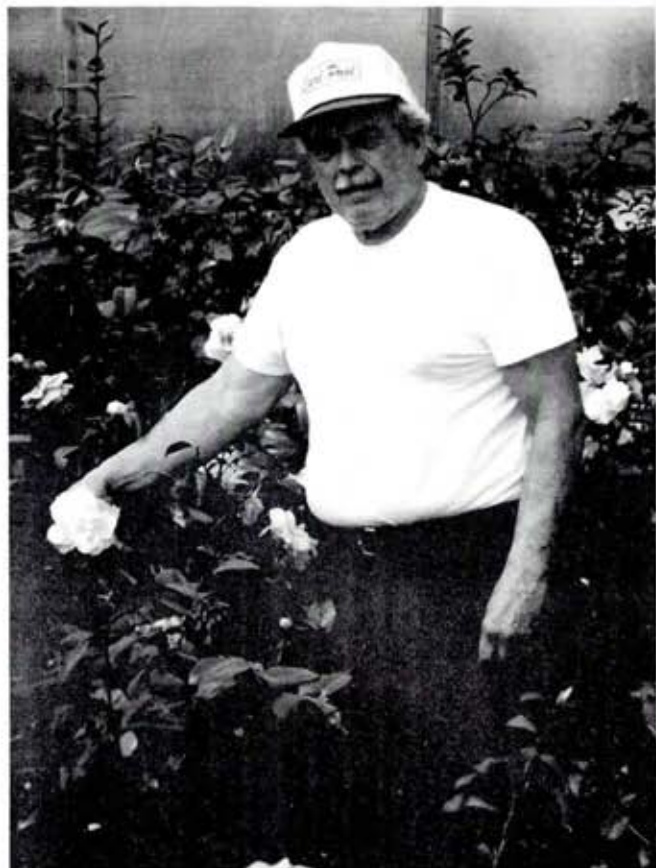
In 1994, Bond Nursery Corp. was formed to serve this winter-hardy camellia niche. We anticipated problems. We had them. We underestimated their complexity.



Logistics would be a problem, no matter where we shipped. We are located in East Texas, a long way from the most of our potential customers. The challenge was to grow and ship them without costing the customer an arm and a leg. Solution: ship liners in 10X20 trays. I had experimented and successfully rooted *C. japonicas* and *C. sasanquas* in 10X20, 72 cell trays in my private greenhouse. We deduced that we could do the same.

It didn't work as hoped for several reasons.

1. The older market's idea of a that



Hal Vanis, owner of Flying V Plant Farm, is the camellia propagator for the Bond Nursery Corporation.

(photo by Bond)

camellia liner is a six-inch plant in a trade gallon. In regular camellia growing States, we had to re-educate an "entrenched notion" market, a tough job in anyone's book. This was not a problem in the North and that market has become very strong and high growth.

2. Shipping was a problem with the 10X20 trays we were using. As cooperative as some shippers tried to be (Delta Airlines was by far the best) we still had intoler-

able losses. This problem overlapped into propagation and propagation techniques.

3. Horticultural problems connected with rooting and shipping affected quality. These were bigger than we had anticipated. Some of you experienced these problems with us. For those who stayed with us, we sincerely thank you! We know it was frustrating. Believe me, we were very concerned and twice as frustrated. Please give us another try! We are

thankful for all of you, past and present. We had several customers who were unhappy, but would not take the time to tell us about it. Customer feedback was lacking, even sometimes when we asked for it. Others just assumed that we didn't care and blew us off. We really meant it when we asked for feedback and we did our best to make things good, even when we didn't have that feedback.

These problems had to be solved simultaneously, not separately, which made it tougher. Experimentation was the order of the day. As for problem number one, we found that increased cell size would help with some of the problem. We changed our rooting medium to make it more compatible with shipping, but the plants didn't like it that much.

Enter Hal Vanis. Hal is an ex-Continental Airlines Senior Captain. Hal grew up in a nursery in Ohio and when the FAA decided that all Airline pilots must retire at age 60, he had 12 years to start a nursery business, prior to retirement. He became very successful, mostly because of his disposition that if it isn't perfect, it must be made perfect; if it isn't right, it will be made right. This attitude has made his nursery, Flying V Plant Farm, a premier supplier of fern products in the USA. Hal agreed

to take on our camellia propagation, production and shipping. Our entire operation moved to Flying V.

Result: We have completely redone our production techniques. The first thing he did was to study everything we had been doing, one item or problem at a time. A lot of conventional ideas and thinking went by the wayside. Our rooting medium was altered and buffered and our rooting techniques altered to match. Container sizes were analyzed for maximum quality production and customer benefits. In summary, Hal has reduced our propagation losses to less than 4%. In a subsequent article, I will discuss our propagation techniques.

We still grow and ship in 10X20 trays, 36 cell for small leaf camellias (*C. sasanquas* and winter-hardy *C. hybrids*) and 24 cell trays for *C. japonicas* and some *C. hybrids*. We have added individual four-inch pots for those who may prefer this larger size. Four-inch pots are shipped in 18 cell trays. Our packing has been changed. We use Styrofoam peanuts and a lot of masking tape. The trays and plants won't move within their carton. We can ship by UPS, with no shift or plants breaking.

We no longer stick cuttings in

expectation of orders. We do not stick orders until they are received. This allows us to better control costs and quality. Camellias root and grow at different rates, dependent upon the species and cultivar. We do not ship a particular cultivar until it is completely rooted. Therefore, we may have to delay or split shipments if and as the camellias dictate.

Productivity improvements have enabled us to reduce costs and greatly increase plant quality. A benefit to our customers is a superior

camellia liner at a significant price reduction.

Part II: Targeted Expansion - Corollary Products

Odds are over 1,000-1 that a camellia plant will be viable for the market and over 10,000-1 that the bloom will be show quality. Over the years, we have collected and sprouted tons of camellia seeds. This began as curiosity about what beauty might be within that seed. We obtained many unwanted seedlings from a major nursery. Our odds have turned out



Ray Bond with his beloved camellias at the Bond Nursery Corporation.

(photo by Bond)

to be about average. One result is that we have donated many camellias to Steven F. Austin University.

Hal and I have registered many new and very good camellias, including *C. sasanquas*, *C. japonicas* and *C. hybrids*, including winter-hardy hybrids. We have more in the pipeline. We will be introducing new cultivars at a rate of eight to ten per year for the next few years. Our most significant *C. japonica* introduction is probably 'Dr. J. C. Raulston.' We will be shipping a very limited number of these liners in spring 2000, as well as several other new ones. Our best *C. sasanqua* introduction, liners shipping this spring, is the dynamite 'Stephanie Golden.' We have introduced three new (zone 6) winter-hardy *C. hybrids* (more to come) that are doing well.

We have added some of the old favorites, many of them, such as tough "oldies" 'Debutante,' 'Paulette Goddard' and 'Gov. Mouton' ('Aunt Jetty') as well as some more recent *C. japonica* introductions, can withstand zone 7a temperatures and zone 6b when established. We have added some superior and more popular strains of *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua* to our product line. We do not plan to add many more. We refuse to try to be everything to everybody, so we won't even try. In the area

of non winter-hardy camellias, we offer superior, selected cultivars that do well in the landscape. Most of them are show quality.

Where are we now? We have developed a loyal and growing market in zone 6 areas. Marginal areas of zone 7 are coming aboard. We are rapidly developing a walk-in market on the retail and wholesale levels. We will publish a liner availability list for spring 2000 shipment, including descriptions, about the time you read this. An Internet web page is in the works. We can be contacted by telephone at (214) 739-8586; FAX (214) 739-8238.

E-mail: raybond@flash.net.

Fayetteville Camellia Show

Fayetteville, North Carolina

February 20, 1999

Best White Japonica	<i>Swan Lake</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn Charlotte, N.C.
Best Seedling		Virginia King
Best Hybrid	<i>Mona Jury Var.</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Reticulata	<i>Howard Asper</i>	Harvey Vaughn Wilson, N.C.
Best Small Japonica Protected	<i>Les Marbury Red</i>	Bob Black Suffolk, Va.
Best Medium Japonica Protected	<i>Sawada's Dream</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Large Japonica Protected	<i>Silver Chalice</i>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Large Japonica Shepherd Open	<i>Royal Velvet</i>	Bill & Donna Charleston, S.C.
Runner-Up Open	<i>Tiffany Var.</i>	Parker Connor Edisto Island, S.C.
Best Medium Japonica Open	<i>Ville de Nantes</i>	Ed Powers Wilmington, N.C.
Best Small Japonica Open	<i>Les Marbury Red</i>	Capt. Doug Simon Norfolk, Va.
Best Local Bloom	<i>Donckelaari</i>	Glenn & Judy Capps Fayetteville, N.C.
Best Miniature	<i>Grace Albritton Starfire</i>	Ann McKinnon Lugoff, S.C.
Best Novice Bloom	<i>Agnes Farmer</i>	Kyle Held Clinton, N.C.
Best Reticulata Open	<i>Francie L.</i>	Parker Connor
Best Tray of Three Open		Ed Powers
Best Tray of Three Protected		Dr. Herb Racoff Columbia, S.C.
Best Tray of Five Different	Ed Powers	

Total Blooms - 717

Jim Darden, Show Chairman

President's Message

By Jeanette Waltzby
Hadensville, Virginia

Ah!!! Finally SPRING HAS SPRUNG. Unfortunately the strange, unpredictable winter, followed by such a dry summer, has taken it's toll. We have had (in Virginia) camellia blooms here and there all winter. But that is not what we want. We have not had a space of time when I can say we have had BLOOMS. It has been one or two at a time, then we get ice or snow to ruin them.

Even in the fall with our sasanquas, we never got that showy time. But I really feel bad for the Society's shows that had to be canceled, like Gainsville. Even though the Gainsville Camellia Society had to cancel because of ice destroying their blooms, they are doing us a great service with their WEB-SITE. If you have access to the internet check them out. If you don't have home access go to your local library or ask you grandchild to help you. This is the BEST TOOL we have to learn more about our favorite flower and see what other clubs are doing.

I will bring with me to the Board Meeting in Columbia a color print-out of their site and



newsletter. I cannot give them enough credit for a fine example of how to attract new members or to interest others in our clubs. If I was within 100 miles I would drive to get there (15 hours one-way is too many).

Also BIG NEWS is all the changes at Masee Lane. I will be interested to hear about and meet all the new Administrators at our Headquarters and there seem to be quite a few. It seems to me a sign of age has become "everything is changing," but I know without change there is no growth. Like our plants, we need to grow up and out or we will get

cramped. Speaking of growing remember we need to grow by enlisting NEW MEMBERS. You will be surprised how enthusiastic a new member can be and this is exciting to all members and new people have new ideas and for the most part we need new refreshing views and workers to carry on.

I'll be seeing some of you at the Board Meeting May 15th and the rest of you, I WANT TO SEE YOU AT THE CONVENTION IN MYRTLE BEACH!!!!

Till then, fondly,

Jeanette



Parker Connor is awarded a \$100.00 check by Pat Pinkerton from the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society for "support above and beyond the call of duty." Parker immediately donated the check to his Coastal Carolina Camellia Society. Dr. Herb Racoff looks on approvingly.

(Photo by Shepherd)

ELIZABETHAN GARDEN PILGRIMAGE

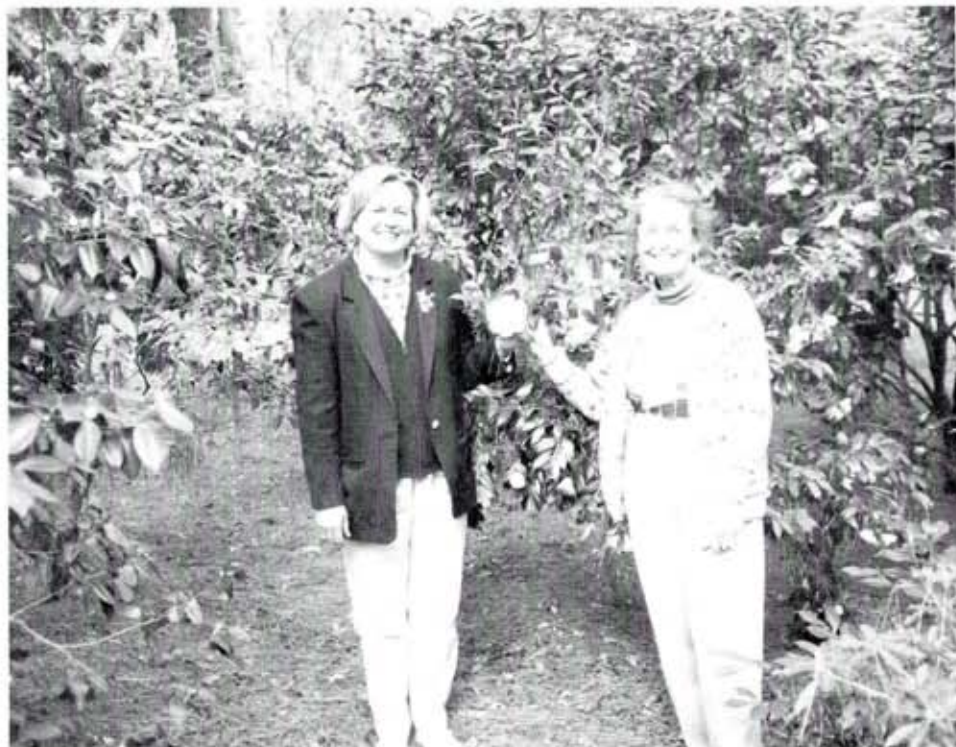
By Jim Darden
Clinton, N. C.

In early March of this year I was invited to do a program for the annual meeting of the leaders of the Garden Clubs of North Carolina. About 100 of that fine organization's top leaders assembled on the North Carolina coast for a meeting billed as the "Elizabethan Garden Pilgrimage."

The venue was breathtaking—The Elizabethan Gardens at Manteo on Roanoke Island near Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills. The women of North Carolina's garden clubs have built this magnificent garden in honor of the first English colony on American shores.



Editor Jim Darden and Mary Lou Huske enjoy the beauty of the Elizabethan Gardens at Manteo, N. C. Mary Lou is President of the Garden Clubs of North Carolina.
(photo by Darden)



Mary Nell Darden and Patty Hutaff marvel at the extraordinary camellias at the Elizabethan Gardens. Patty, an active member of the Fayetteville Camellia Club and a long-time board member of the Elizabethan Gardens, has been a driving force in the advancement of this fine garden.

(photo by Darden)

The plaque at the entrance reads "Down the centuries English women have built gardens, to the glory of God, the beauty of the countryside and the comfort of their souls. The women of the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., have planted this garden in memory of the valiant men and women who founded the first English colony in America. From this hallowed ground on Roanoke Island they walked away through

the dark forest and into history. 1585-1951."

I had not visited these gardens since, as a rookie high school biology teacher at Charles E. Jordan Senior High School in 1969, the Durham County Schools sent me on an environmental tour of the Outer Banks. What a difference 30 years makes.

I was shocked by the metamorphosis of tiny Roanoke Island. What used to be a sleepy little

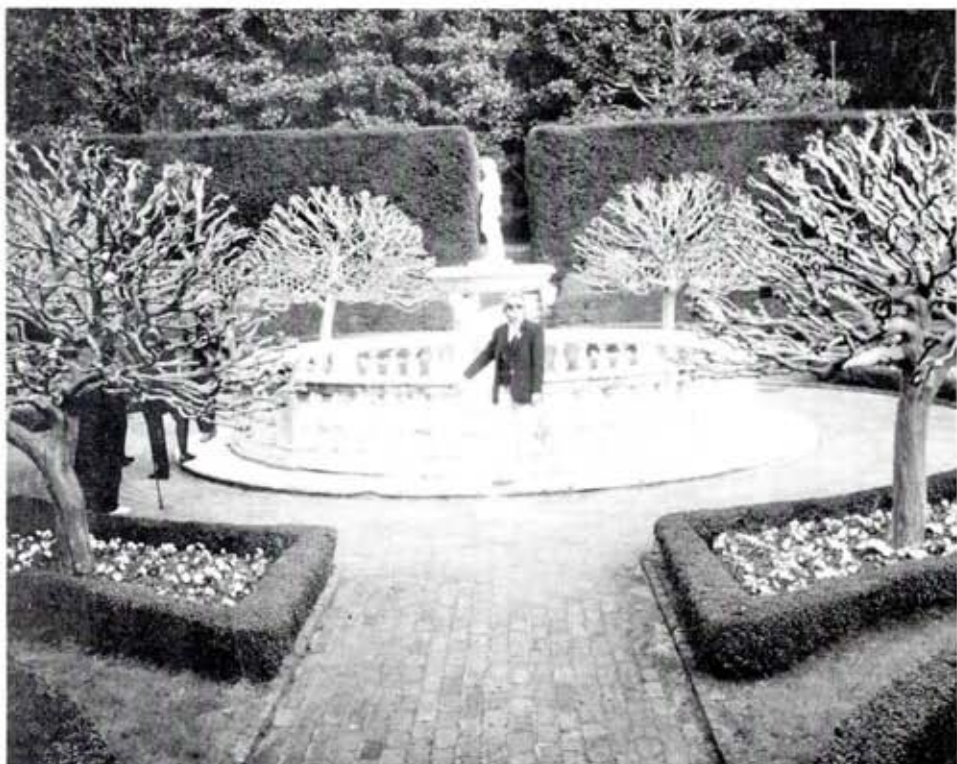
town in a desolate part of North Carolina, at the very edge of the earth some mainlanders have surmised after making the four hour drive from the central part of the state, now has all the trappings of a highly developed beach/retirement city. The central five-lane asphalt strip through the center of town has all the modern conveniences-strip malls, Big Mac's and tacos, you know the rest. The same is true across the bridge in Nags Head.

But the gardens, which share a site with the famous remains of ancient Fort Raleigh, have made great strides. Mary Nell and I spent two pleasant days here, working with Mary Lou Huske, a member of the Garden Clubs Board of Governors, and Patty Hutaff, a long-time member of the Board of Trustees of the Elizabethan Gardens and a driving force behind the extraordinary development therein.

Three decades ago there was



Jim Darden and his good friend, Queen Elizabeth I, discuss the Camellias in the Elizabethan Garden with a backdrop of tall clipped hedges of native yaupon.
(photo by Darden)



Mary Nell in the sunken garden, with its splendid Italian Marble statue of Virginia Dare, and the heavily clipped English boxwoods and crape myrtles.

(photo by Darden)

little to see in these gardens. I remember the sunken formal English garden, with its white Italian marble statue of Virginia Dare set against the tall, closely clipped holly hedges. There was little else then.

Enter Louis Midgett. I had the pleasure of meeting and having dinner with Louis, and it was an unforgettable experience.

Louis is from the Midgett family long famed for their rescue efforts along the outer banks. Many

a shipwrecked seaman owes his very life to this family. Louis, too, followed in these footsteps, retiring from the Coast Guard in the 1960's after being educated at UNC and N. C. State. His family still owns large tracts of land on Roanoke Island, having been honored for their efforts in creating wildlife refuges in the area. Lewis' mother was President of the Garden Club at Manteo, and after his retirement she encouraged him to become active in the

creation of the gardens. Soon he was Superintendent, and for 29 years he was the guiding light and very soul of this extraordinary effort.

In the mid-1960's the landscape architects who designed the project attempted to make plant selections for the formal English center of the garden. They wanted a tall, closely clipped wall border, but the traditional English yew, ironwood, and gorse were not suitable for the deep sand and harsh marine environment of this coastal island. They went to Lewis Midgett for guidance.

Lewis took the logical approach to the problem. Look at the natural flora, he wisely instructed. After surveying those plants which proved themselves compatible in the existing island flora, the native Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, was chosen. Clearly this plant had the desired qualities. It was tall, evergreen, and capable of tolerating the close shearing that was needed to give it an English look typical of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

Lewis began collecting native specimens and planting them in the formal shapes. Soon his wisdom was proven as tight shearing formed them into the famous living walls in the garden today. At about the same time,

and here comes the good part for camellia lovers, three specimens of *Camellia japonica* were donated to the garden. They, too, soon proved themselves in the balmy atmosphere of Roanoke Island, and Lewis knew that they would be a major component of the garden of the future. Today there are hundreds of fine, massive camellias here, *Camellia japonicas*, *Camellia sasanquas*, and even *Camellia reticulatas*.

I was lucky enough to be invited here during the camellia blooming season. In fact, I was asked to lead the group on a walking tour of the camellias in the garden. It was extraordinary. The huge camellias, in their magnificent blooming glory, rose high over our heads and were covered with color. Many of the great varieties are here, and all are tagged with proper varietal names.

The pine needle walkways wind informally through a forest of ancient live oaks, and camellias cover the forest floor. They also surround the great lawn, lushly carpeted with its winter rye cover. The statuary and hardscaping add the necessary non-plant elements to authenticate the English flavor of the garden.

A true replica of a 16th century English gazebo, complete with daub-and-waddle walls and

imported English thatched roof, allows the visitor to sit and gaze out into Pamlico Sound. This is at the very spot where Sir Walter Raleigh's agent, Sir Richard Grenville, came ashore in 1585 in the first effort to establish an English foothold in the new world.

History and tradition hang heavy in the air here, as this is the site where the English heritage many of us share began in America. The disappearance of the Lost Colony adds to the mystery of this place, and the

women of the North Carolina Garden Clubs have preserved it for all time. Camellias play a major role in the construction of this garden.

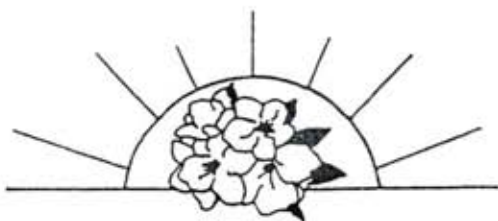
If you are a camellia lover you must come here. There is so much to do—the lighthouses, outer banks, Wright Brothers Memorial, and much more. But, above all, you will see a world class collection of camellias. Plan a trip to the Elizabethan Gardens at Manteo, and you will not be disappointed.

*Past ACCS President
Ed Powers and wife Lou
celebrate their 50th wedding
anniversary at the Coastal
Carolina Camellia Society
show in Charleston,
January 23, 1999.*

(photo by Shepherd)



CAMELLIA BUDDIES AT



AZALEA SUNSET

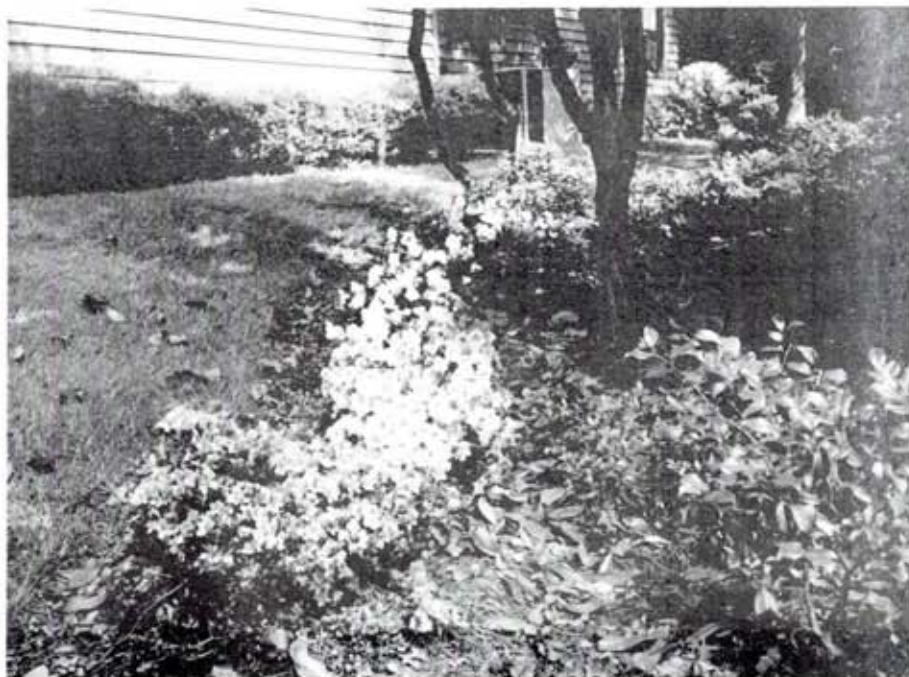
A LOW COUNTRY REGISTERED NURSERY

By Bill McDavit

(Continued from last edition)

Probably, our most concerted efforts involve the documentation of seasonal bloom times. Convinced the public that all azaleas DO NOT bloom concurrently is

one of our prime considerations. Also, we've come to believe that an evaluation period for any one plant, whether it's a camellia or an azalea, should be a minimum of five years. We've also added



Azaleas 'Meicho' and 'Louisa' live in harmony with camellias at Azalea Sunset.

(photo by McDavit)



Camellia japonica
'Black Gold'
at Azalea Sunset.

(photo by McDavid)

camellias to our lecture content, recently. They fit into the subject matter, perfectly. Camellias are the only evergreen shrubs we have that bloom in the fall or winter, except for a new azalea hybrid group, called the Encore Azaleas. A description of that set shall be detailed later in this article.

Our limited collection of camellias amounts to 171, of which 147 are different varieties. That's not very many, but, we keep adding by encroaching on the grassy areas. Eventually, and hopefully, there won't be anymore grass to mow. Oh, happy days!

We have mostly hybrids of *C. sasanqua*, *C. japonica* and a few crosses like 'Bryan' and 'Dresden China', which are two of our finest 'good doers'. Although the

subject of defining favorites is difficult, at best, we've never seen a camellia we did not like. Be that as it may, following, is an abridged list of our special favorites: 'Jean May', 'El Dorado', 'Kanjiro', 'Betty Sheffield Var.', 'Professor Sargent', 'Silver Waves', 'Governor Mouton', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Blue Danube', 'Lady VanSittart', 'R L Wheeler Var.', 'Chansonette', 'Pearl Maxwell', and the two crosses mentioned previously.

Okay, you're asking, where does the camellia companion bit come into play!?! Here comes the kicker:

Rhododendrons, evergreen and native deciduous azaleas, camellias and sundry other evergreen plants are perfectly at home

growing amongst each other. Fertilizer, habitat, drainage, soil Ph factor, watering and cultivation principles are the same for all of the mentioned species. We must be aware that soil consistency makes a big difference in how much fertilizer and watering is required to maintain healthy plants, i.e., gardens with sandy loam must be watered more often and fed more heavily.

Allow me to pass on a truism said by some smart dude sometime somewhere, "More plants die from kindness than neglect." We see it all the time with homeowners who overfeed, feed at the wrong times, over-water, under-water, or use incorrect watering procedures. These important items get a spot up front in our lectures.

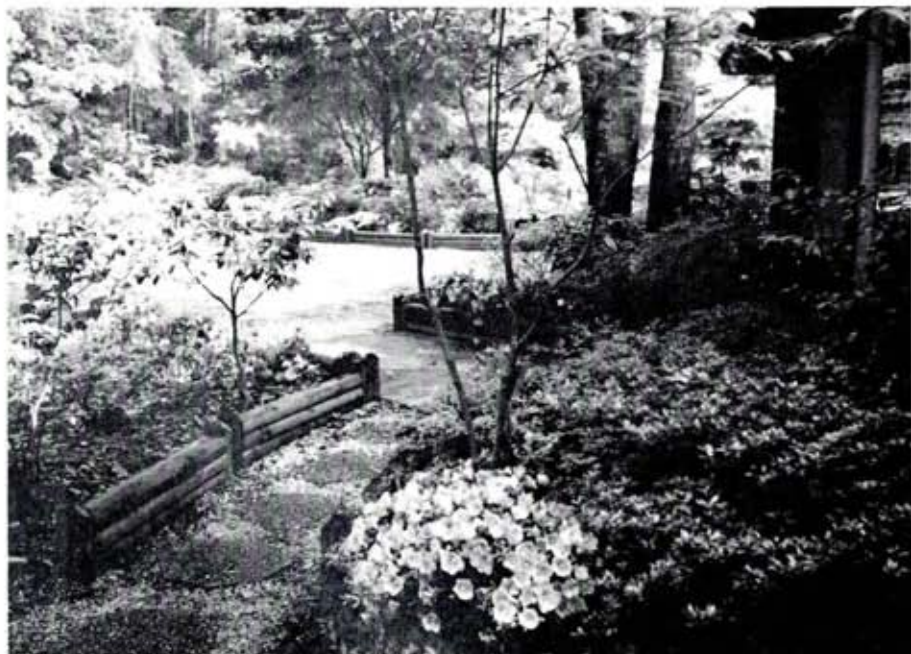
An important gem of wisdom we learned years ago from a member at one of the ACCS Conventions in Myrtle Beach is, "Azaleas die slowly, but camellias die quickly". How very true we've found that to be ..most of the time.

If dedicated camellia gardeners were to introduce specific azalea varieties into their gardens, color would continue even after the last C. Japonica had dropped it's blooms. (I'm using C. Japonica as a reference, since hybrids from that species are the last ones we have to bloom here.)

Some of the commercial azalea standards bloom even before the

last camellia has finished. The Glenn Dale azalea varieties, 'Day Spring', 'Festive' and the Pennington variety, 'Mike Bullard' bloom here in late January or early February, based on the severity of the winter weather. Similarly, the Nuccio favorite, 'Nuccio's Happy Days' has bloomed here in late February and early March. Many other familiar commercial azalea varieties, like 'Hino Crimson', 'Hinode Giri', 'Christmas Cheer', 'Coral Bells', and 'H H Hume' bloom in March. They can be found for sale at most nurseries south of Washington, D.C. The most popular commercial varieties bloom shortly before or when the So. Indica hybrid, 'Formosa', Azalea Standard of the South, is in bloom here.

The Southern Indica (SI) azalea group, commonly known as "large leaf azaleas", grow very quickly, have varying growth habits and have appreciable bloom-period diversification. For instance, 'Pride of Mobile' has purplish pink blooms, is upright and spreading and blooms in early March. 'Formosa' and the Sport of Formosa, 'George L Tabor', are upright and spreading plants, with purple and lavender flowers, respectively, blooming in mid March here. They can grow 6-7 feet high in eight years. 'Pride of Summerville' (aka, 'Daphne Salmon', aka, 'Lawsal') is a tall



'Wakaebisu' and 'Beth Bullard' grow in raised beds at Azalea Sunset amid the dogwoods and camellias.

(photo by McDavid)

growing plant with deep coral pink flowers, that blooms in late March. 'Pride of Dorking' (my personal favorite) is a medium spreading growth plant with brilliant red flowers that bloom in early April.

'Cavendishi' is a low-growing spreading azalea, with pink/red/white variegated flowers, that blooms in mid April. 'Alba Maculata' is a medium growing white azalea, which blooms in late April. If SI's were all that you planted, two months of color, intermixed with your latest blooming camellias, would be a reality. There are many more SI

varieties, but too numerous to mention in this article. The SI azaleas do well up to Hardiness Zone 8.

Following the text of this article, is an abridged list of our azalea favorites that we think do not get enough visibility, and yet, cover the months from December on into the following July. Most often, the reason for the lack of visibility is simple ..folks don't know how to ask for them by name. Nurserymen will stock only those varieties that SELL THE BEST, or are REQUESTED THE MOST. Seldom will choices from our favorite's list be seen in

nurseries or gardens, but they deserve to be.

The Favorites List has been extracted from our complete listing, with bloom times included. We shall refer you to the bloom time of the hybrid 'Hino Crimson' as a chronological reference. We'll just surmise that everyone knows 'Hino Crimson', the bright red azalea of spring, which usually blooms here in late March.

To end this article on a very promising note, we are presently evaluating a new azalea hybrid group called the Encore Azaleas. They are grown by Flowerwood Nursery, Inc., under license from Plant Development Services Inc. (PDSI), who has registered and applied for patents on this series. Based on their parentage, the entire set is predicted to be hardy into Zone 7 (and beyond with winter protection provided).

The extraordinary feature of the Encore azaleas is their bloom season. All of them start to bloom in the early spring, and should continue to bloom, grow and set buds over and over again until 1st frost. We have only had the Encore set since late May of this year, so we don't have knowledge of them blooming early, but they did start to bloom in late June. Although, we have yet to witness the entire bloom season, they are all blooming as of this date, 11-19-98. We have had two minor frosts, thus far, but nothing severe

enough to disrupt the blooms.

Colors range from, red, coral pink, orange and purple, but no white. Their growing habits range from medium and spreading to upright and tall. We have the entire set growing in partially shaded areas, mulched with pine straw and fertilized with Agriform 20-10-5 slow release tablets.

This hybrid group could revolutionize the industry, but we'll have to wait and see. Personally, we had never seen or heard of azaleas blooming until frost. Hopefully after five years, we'll be able to provide a positive evaluation report. Flowerwood Nursery has them for sale now at their location at Semmes, AL, near Mobile, and possibly in Busnell, FL.

In addition, PDSI has another group of persistent azaleas coming on after the Encore Series. Eight or so have been named and registered recently with the American Rhododendron Society. All of their varietal names are prefaced with "Southern", i.e., 'Southern Beauty', 'Southern Blush', 'Southern Flame', 'Southern Glory', 'Southern Grace', 'Southern Maiden', and 'Southern Pride'. Based on parentage, all are estimated to be cold hardy to Zone 8. They appear in the Fall 1998 edition of the American Rhododendron Society Journal. They should be available for sale at Flowerwood Nursery in Bushnell, FL, now.

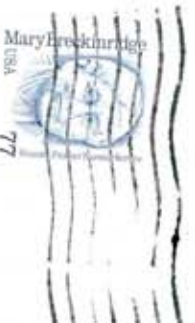


ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Jim Darden, Editor

P. O. Box 1087

Clinton, N. C. 28329-1087



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