Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

CLARA HAHN, TYLER MIZZELL
and CATHERINE MIMS

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COVER PHOTO

Clara Hahn, Tyler Mizzell and Catherine Mims enjoy the festivities at the annual meeting of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in Myrtle Beach

Darden

In This Issue

Container Greenhouse Camellia Culture

By Fred Hahn
Charlotte, North Carolina

Excerpted from, and printed with permission from,
The Tidewater Camellia Club Handbook
Wilmington, North Carolina
Ogle Hess—Editor

My greenhouse has a fiberglass roof and I have to grow camellias in containers since it would get too hot in the summer if they were planted in the ground.

Containers

I use black plastic containers and have not had any problems from temperatures in the high nineties or low hundreds. I have about two dozen plants in 7 1/2 gallon containers and the rest are in smaller containers.

Soil Mix

My soil mix is:
3 parts fine pine bark
1 part sand
1/2 part soil
1/2 part loose peat

I never add any fertilizer to my mix and never test it to check it's acidity.

When I buy a new plant, I bare root and plant in the smallest container possible. There are three reasons I do this. (1) I don't want petal blight. (2) I want to plant in my own soil mix. (3) I don't want to over pot which could result in keeping the plant too wet. You should have only 1 1/2 to 2 inches of space between the old roots and the side of the new container. If you are moving a plant to a larger container and the roots are matted, you should loosen them so they can grow into the new soil. I never change the soil in an old container. I just repot until the plant is too large for the greenhouse.

I move my plants out of the greenhouse in late April, place them in partial shade and return to the greenhouse in October. My greenhouse is heated with a natural gas heater with the thermostat at 38 degrees.

Pruning

You have to prune more when container growing in a greenhouse. I try to shape my plants to grow more vertical and not so wide spreading so I can get more plants in my greenhouse. I use bonsai pruners and try to leave growth buds pointing up and not out from the plant. I always paint all cuts with Trekote (adding Benlate, Captan and a small amount of water). I sterilize my pruners before moving on to a new plant. I prune heavy in the spring after blooming and lightly in the fall when I place my plants back in the greenhouse.

Fertilizing

I usually close my greenhouse about the first week in December (depending on the weather) and keep it closed until my plants have finished blooming. I have humidifiers which I set on 35% to 60%. Also, I have shredded wood or bark on the floor, which I wet down by hand occasionally. Plants should be wet when you feed them, and during the winter feeding program your humidity should be kept high. Here is the fertilization schedule which I follow:

Master camellia grower Fred Hahn enjoys discussing the finer points of camellia growing with past ACCS President, Jeanette Waltz.

Darden

Five-Gallon Containers

May—three tablespoons of lime
June—three tablespoons of cottonseed meal
August—two tablespoons of 20% super phosphate

When it turns cold, I apply one quart of the following material every two to three weeks alternately:

1. Three tablespoons blood meal and one tablespoon Peters 20-20-20 per gallon of water.
2. Two tablespoons Peters 20-20-20 per gallon of water.

Remember, my soil is light—do not use the above fertilizer program on plants in heavy soil. You will note I do not feed in March after I prune my plants because of the heavy feeding I do in the winter.

Insect and Disease Control

Starting this year (2001) I am going to use NEEM to control aphids. I have used Mavrick, Talstar and Pentac for red spiders. I paint one to two inch band of Cygon on the trunk of my plants to control Peony Scale. I find it effective when applied when the sap is rising.

Katherine Hoggsette, left, and Bonnie Serpas, wife of current ACCS President Geary Serpas, are pictured here at last year's meeting in Myrtle Beach. *Darden*

Disbudding

If you are going to have show quality blooms, you have to disbud. Again, this is more difficult. I force myself every year and still feel I do not remove enough buds. I start early and disbud up to the first of December. On large plants I leave about eight to ten buds. We all like to give blooms to friends and even though I disbud a lot, I still have plenty of blooms to give away.

Gibbing

I gib a few buds for the fall shows; however, I start my heavy gibbing about the first week of December and gib every two weeks until the middle of February. All buds are gibbed with no injury to the plant.

If your program for container grown greenhouse camellias has worked well for you in the past, please don't change.

The best Camellia auctioneers in the South, Buck Mizzell and Bill Robertson, are here in action at Parker Connor's plantation. They can be seen in action again in Myrtle Beach in September.

Shepherd

Ten Women Who've Made an Impact

Submitted by Dr. Herb Racoff
Columbia, South Carolina

The following clipping from ***The State*** *newspaper, Columbia, South Carolina, on Sunday, June 23, 2002, was submitted to Atlantic Coast Camellias by Dr. Herb Racoff, and concerns a person well known in our Camellia circles. She was recognized as being one of the top ten leaders in women's athletics in the state of South Carolina since the federal government enacted Title IX.*

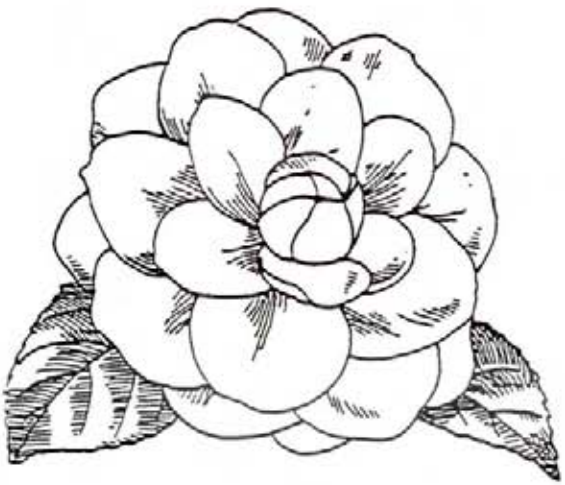
The ten women were recognized with a short description of their contributions to athletics, all preceded by this statement: "This is a look at ten women with South Carolina ties who have had a major impact on women's athletics in the state and nationally since Title IX was adopted in 1972."

Patsy Mack Pinkerton

She became the first assistant executive director for women's sports for the South Carolina High School League in 1974. For twenty two years the woman known as Patsy Mack served as a buffer for women coaches between the league office and schools, oversaw eligibility, and helped provide more quality state championships for girls.

Pasty Mack Pinkerton and Elizabeth Schiebert are all smiles at last year's Myrtle Beach meeting.

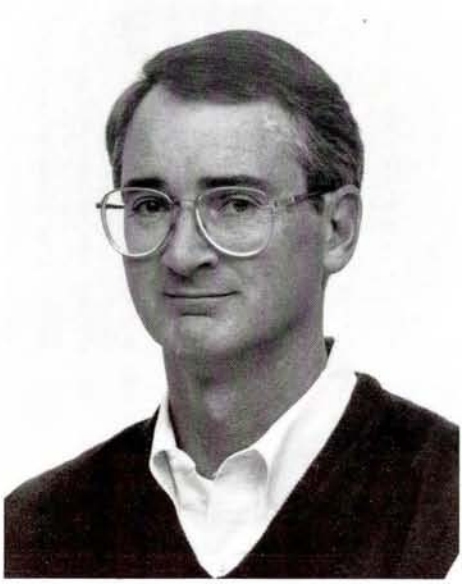
Darden



Editor's Column

by Jim Darden
Clinton, North Carolina

Well, this Editor's Message is going to seem a bit like "Deja Vue all over again." You might remember that I was your editor of Atlantic Coast Camellias for five years during the early 1990's, but had to relinquish that role to Dr. Dave Schiebert. I was called out of retirement and re-assumed the role of editor in 1996, and have been your editor for six additional years.



I must now inform you that I intend to step down (again), with the January, 2003, issue being my last. It is my hope that some one will step forward at the September meeting in Myrtle Beach and assume the editorship, beginning with the May 1, 2003 issue. I will do everything within my power to make this transition a smooth one.

There are several reasons for my move. First, I prefer to look at the cup as being half full instead of half empty. It isn't like I am quitting, but rather, I am retiring after giving eleven years of service to the society. This is such a worthy cause, and the people are such good friends, that I have enjoyed helping in my small way to improve the society over the decade of the 1990's.

I hope to retire with 30 years of service teaching in the high schools (six years) and community college (24 years) on January 1, 2003. If my plans work out for half-time employment with the college, I will go out January 1. This will allow me to devote the time to my nursery that I have not given to it over the past decades. It needs me on a fulltime basis to succeed, and I plan to do just that.

I saw a bumper sticker recently that said, "Legalize Gambling, Don't Let Farmers Have All The Fun." Well, I plan to be a fulltime azalea farmer and part-time teacher, instead of the other way around. Farming of any kind is a crapshoot, and I have learned over

the years that you must put your heart and soul into a nursery to make it successful. So, that is where my time will go.

In addition to the nursery and, I hope, teaching part-time at the college, Dr. Bruce Williams from Wilmington and I are going to form a partnership and start a company which will carry several groups overseas each summer to tour the great gardens and historic sites in England, Scotland, Ireland, France, etc. Tentatively we plan to carry a group in May, landing in Paris and, ending up nine days later at the Chelsea Flower Show in London.

Then in June we will tour southern England, spending three nights each in Falmouth (seeing the Isles of Scilley), Bath (seeing Stonehenge), and London (visiting Kew). This trip will have Camellias at every stop, including Edgcumbe Castle and Gardens where the Royal Camellia Collection resides.

Then in July we will venture to Ireland, touring the south coast from Dublin to Glendalough, Kilkenny, Waterford, Ardmore, Kinsale, Tipperary, the Dingle Peninsula, Adare, and back to Limerick. Bruce, his wife Marsha, Mary Nell and I spent ten days investigating that trip in July this year, and it was fabulous. The gardens, like Powerscourt, were beautiful, the historic sites, like the Ardmore Round Tower, were ancient and amazing. The Irish people were as friendly as they could be, and the food (pub grub) was wonderful. We can't wait to go back.

By the time you get this journal we will have a brochure on the 2003 trips. If you would like to get one, please contact me at P.O. Box 1087, Clinton, N.C., 28329. Or, just call me at (910) 592-1424. Bruce and I will accompany the tours, and many of you who know him are aware that he is the finest Horticulturist in the region. Bruce's TV program, The Downeast Gardener, is viewed by more than 30,000 people every Saturday morning on WECT, Channel 6, in Wilmington.

The person who takes the editorship of Atlantic Coast Camellias should have, in addition to about 40 hours of time to donate for each of the three annual editions, good computer skills. I have gathered the materials and articles for each issue, often having to write some of the articles myself, and typed them into the computer so they can be put into columns and cut and pasted into a final form that can be taken to the printer.

But, the next editor should have more computer skills than me. They need a good working knowledge of Desktop Publishing so they can cut and paste on the computer and have the text camera-ready on disks. They also need to be able to do photo separations on the computer.

It appears from the first edition of The Southeastern Camellia Digest just

received that editor Gene Phillips (I assume him to be the editor, though no editor is acknowledged in the first edition) has those skills. That digest has excellent color on all four of the cover pages, and is well set up with photos and borders throughout. I think that journal is very well done, and I suggested to Gene that he also serve as editor of our journal.

The job description of Journal Editor includes these computer and writing skills, along with the required photography skills needed to provide pictures for each edition. The editors must also be able to work closely with a local printer, presenting the materials and revising them on the spot as needed. Then stamping, procuring and applying address labels, and mailing come last. Thanks go to Pat Pinkerton for providing our mailing list for each edition during the past several years.

Time is the key requirement for the next editor. For eleven years I have taken that 40 hours for the preparation of each edition away from my business, and I just cannot be sure that I would be able to do that next year. There are many talented and qualified members of our society, and I hope one will step forward and carry on the journal tradition that our society has enjoyed since Jim McCoy began as our first editor many years ago.

Annabelle Fetterman, Past ACS President; Ed Powers, Past ACS President, and Jim Darden, ACCS Journal Editor, talk Camellias at a recent meeting.
Darden

Mid-Carolina Camellia Show

Columbia, South Carolina
February 9-10, 2002

Show Results
Submitted by Dr. Herb Racoff
Blooms—826
Attendance—2000

Best Large Japonica Open	***Lady Laura***	Frank Galloway
Runner-up	***Rosea Superba Var.***	Bob & Gail Reese
Best Medium Japonica Open	***Ville de Nantes***	Lib Scott
Runner-up	***Lady K***	Parker Connor
Best Small Japonica Open	***Tama Vino***	Rupert Drews
Runner-up	***Les Marbury***	Lu & Ed Powers
Best Miniature Open	***Tammia***	Parker Connor
Runner-up	***Thirty Drops***	Frank Galloway
Best Large Japonica Protected	***Tomorrow Park Hill Fim.***	Katherine & Richard Mims
Runner-up	***Ginny Anderson***	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Medium Japonica Protected	***Ville de Nantes***	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Runner-up	***Cherries Jubilee***	Bill & Mildred Robertson
Best Small Japonica Protected	***Little Babe Var.***	Fred & Clara Hahn
Runner-up	***Les Marbury***	Lu & Ed Powers

Best Reticulata in Show	***Frank Houser***	Pat Pinkerton
Best Large Reticulata Open	***Bill Goertz***	Gail & Brenda Reese
Best "Valentine Day" in Show	***Valentine Day Var.***	Parker Connor
Best Very Large Retic Protected	***Pearl Terry***	Fred & Clara Hahn
Runner-up	***Curtain Call***	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Medium-Large Retic Protected	***Dr. Clifford Parks***	Fred & Clara Hahn
Runner-up	***Harold L. Paige***	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Formal Double Japonica	***Ethel Rhyne***	Fred & Clara Hahn

Class 1 winner in flower arranging at the Columbia show was "The Groom Stood Tall" by Peggy Garvin.

Racoff

Best Local Bloom Open	***Marie Bracey***	Ray & Beulah Smith
Best Hybrid Open	***Dr. Zhivago***	Frank Galloway
Best Hybrid Protected	***Mona Jury Var.***	Fred & Clara Hahn
Runner-up	***Anticipation***	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Novice Bloom	***Atomic Red***	David Sheets
Best Arrangement, Section A	***Bridal Showers***	Janice Hull
Best Arrangement, Section B	***The Groom Stood Tall***	Peggy Garvin

The Class 2 winner in flower arranging at the Columbia Show was "Bridal Showers" by Janice Hull.

Racoff

President's Message

by Geary Serpas
Santee, South Carolina

Dear ACCS Members,

It's time to start thinking about our FALL CONVENTION IN MYRTLE BEACH, SEPTEMBER 27 and 28, 2002. The convention hotel is the Sand Castle Family Resort, 1802 North Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The telephone number is 1-800-626-1550.

The prices this year are $57.00 for Ocean View rooms and $61.00 for Ocean Front rooms. Fred Hahn made these arrangements with Gail Floyd, the motel manager. As the Sand Castle will NOT hold a block of rooms for us, the reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served, basis.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. All reservations should be made with one night's deposit to hold your reservation. No other discounts are applicable to this rate, such as AARP, AAA, etc.

The registration fee for the convention is $40.00 per person, which includes the Friday evening cocktails and the Bar-B-Que, and the Saturday Banquet. Dues remain at $12.50 per year. For those who wish to attend for only one day, the price is $20.00. Also, on Saturday afternoon we will be holding some free educational programs that will be open to the general public.

Our General Meeting and Banquet, as well as the Educational Programs, will be held at the Elks Club, our usual location.

Fred and Clara Hahn, our long-time Secretary-Treasurer, and Gloria McClintock, our Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for many years, have submitted their resignations effective after this year's convention. Fred and Clara have held this position for

the past eleven years, and felt that it was time to step down. Gloria and her late husband, Latimer, were the original Secretary-Treasurer's of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.

Our nominating committee consists of: Mildred Robertson, Warren Thompson and Doug Simon. They have some very large shoes to fill with these vacancies coming open. If anyone has an interest in filling these positions, please contact any of the members of the nominating committee.

The good news is that we are a week later than the motorcycle week at Myrtle Beach, so we should be able to have a nice relaxing weekend at the beach. I look forward to having a good convention and seeing your there.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Miles Beach demonstrates the new ACCS website, of which he is creator and Webmaster. It includes his fabulous camellia photo gallery.

Darden

BUGS THAT EAT CAMELLIAS

By Ray Bond
Dallas, Texas

There aren't many chewing insects that will bother camellias, but those that do can cause a lot of damage. Old growth is definitely not a chewing insect's favorite. Following is a list of worst bug offenders and how to combat them.

Weevils that attack camellias are Fuller's rose beetle (*Pantomorus godmani*), a nocturnal beetle that feeds on the edges of the leaves leaving irregular holes in the edges. The larvae of the cambium curculio (*Contrachelus anaglypticus*) feeds upon new, young camellia shoots. The strawberry root weevil (*Bachyrhinus ovatus*) which feeds along the edges of camellia leaves while its larvae feed on the tender new roots and feeder roots. The black vine weevil (*Brachyrhinus sulcatus*) chews irregular holes along the edges of leaves. Black vine weevil larvae sometimes feed on camellia roots and will sometimes girdle small cuttings, killing them.

Beetles: Two important beetles which attack camellias and are nocturnal are *Rhabidopterus proetextrus* and *R. Deceptor*. Both are shiny black to bronze in color and about 1/8" wide and 1/4" long. They eat long or curved (new moon shaped) holes in leaves.

Caterpillars: Most caterpillars are general pests to camellias. This status is enhanced by pesticide resistance and plant distribution. A few leaf eaters are caterpillars (*Lepidoptera*) and most are nocturnal. This includes cabbage loopers (*Trochoplusia ni*) and various other species. Some eat holes in leaves, some chew the edges and some eat the whole thing, new growth or old. Leaf roller larvae (*Platynota sultana*) will skeletonize the leaves and then

roll a leaf or pull two leaves together and build a cottony cocoon inside.

Puss moth caterpillars (Asps) deserve special mention because they will inflict a very painful and lasting sting, when touched. They sometimes attack by swinging leaves back and forth when they feel threatened. They look like a brown fuzzy growth when you see them on a leaf or stem. These caterpillars love new growth.

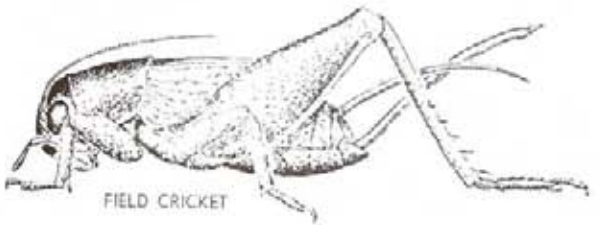
Crickets like flower buds and will chew on them. Camellia blooms happen to appear in a season when other buds are beginning to disappear, so if the weather warms crickets will do more than normal damage. Crickets also like new growth, but camellias are not on their preferred menu.

Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is a very good biological control for most camellia leaf eaters. Use it as a spray but do not use it in direct sun. Pyrethroids are very good and a little bit goes a long way. Chloronicotinals, such as imidacloprid (Merit®), make the insect stop eating and kills the offending leaf eater. This family of pesticides is particularly damaging to larvae when applied to the ground around the plant, but it may not affect the mature insect. Sevin® (*carbaryl*) is a good stomach poison that kills leaf eaters. Whatever insecticide you use, make sure that it is on the plants or ground around the plant at night when leaf eaters are most active.

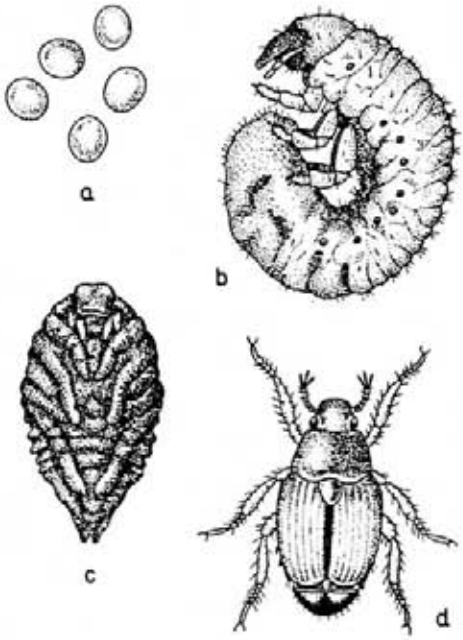
Japanese Beetles can be the biggest problem in areas they visit. I deliberately saved them for last. Adults range in size from 3/8" to 3/4" long and 1/4" to 1/2" wide. Females are usually larger than males. Japanese beetles will appear in ones and twos, or small and large swarms like 17-year-locusts, destroying almost any plant in their way.

These big, bright metallic green beetles can mean devastation. They have been referred to as "green, copper bulldozers." Japanese beetles are probably the most destructive landscape insect pest in the eastern USA. Japanese beetles love and will quickly maul new growth of anything

Japanese beetles have two missions in life. They will eat almost any plant that might be in their way to



FIELD CRICKET



Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*)
(a) Eggs. (b) Larva (grub).
(c) Pupa. (d) Adult beetle.

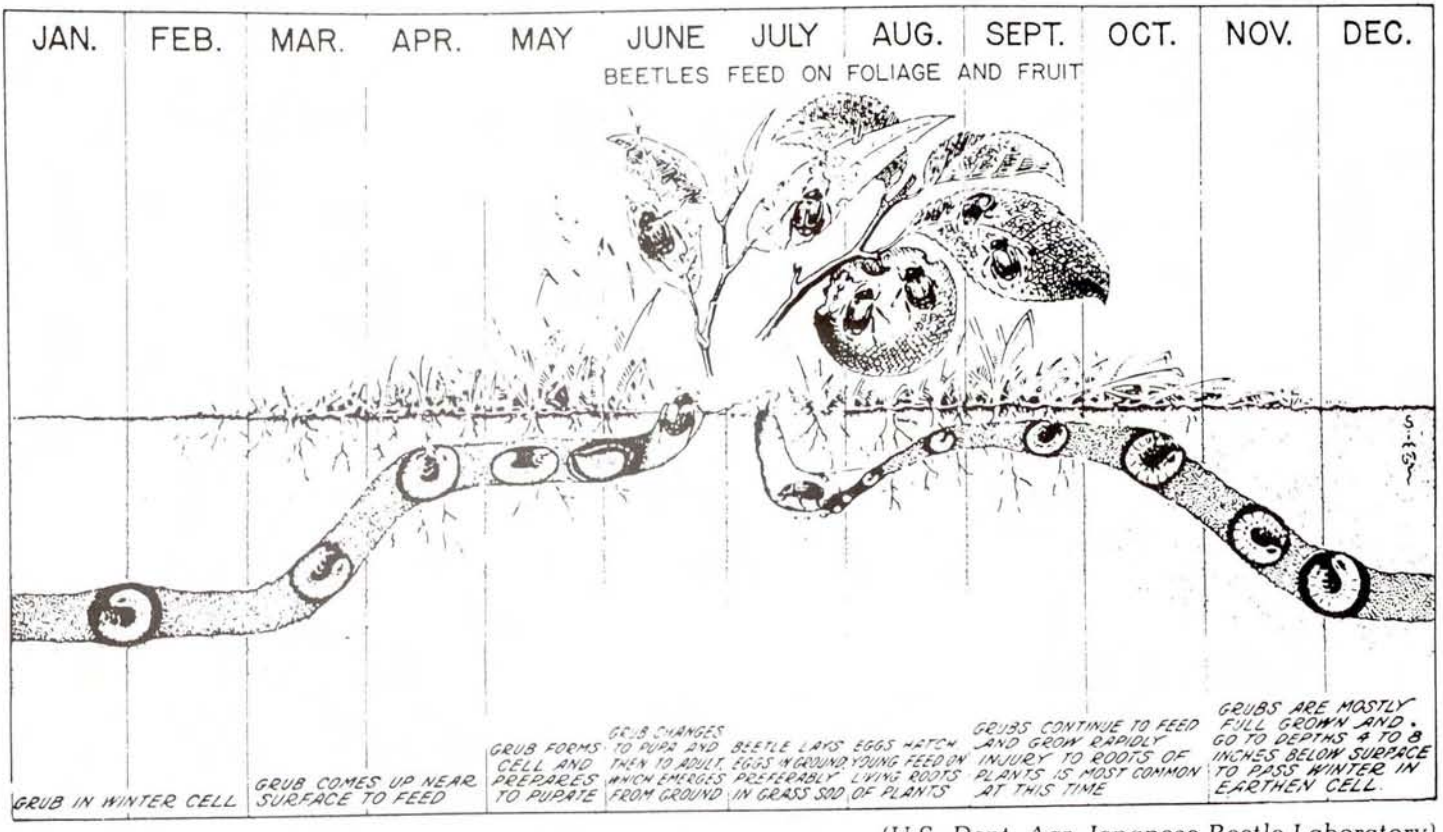
(U.S. Department of Agriculture circular)

fulfill the second mission. They love and will quickly maul new growth of anything They love new growth of camellias and will rapidly denude a camellia plant of it. Japanese beetle grubs can decimate turfgrass.

Some states have quarantines for japanese beetles. In the east and in cooler more humid states with infestations of this insect, such as North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania this quarantine is probably superfluous. However, in states with no population of Japanese beetles, the quarantine makes sense. This insect is slowly spreading westward and northward, but states with relatively warm, dry climates probably don't have to worry about them, and quarantines may be unnecessary. However, they have recently been observed in northern Louisiana and northeast Texas.

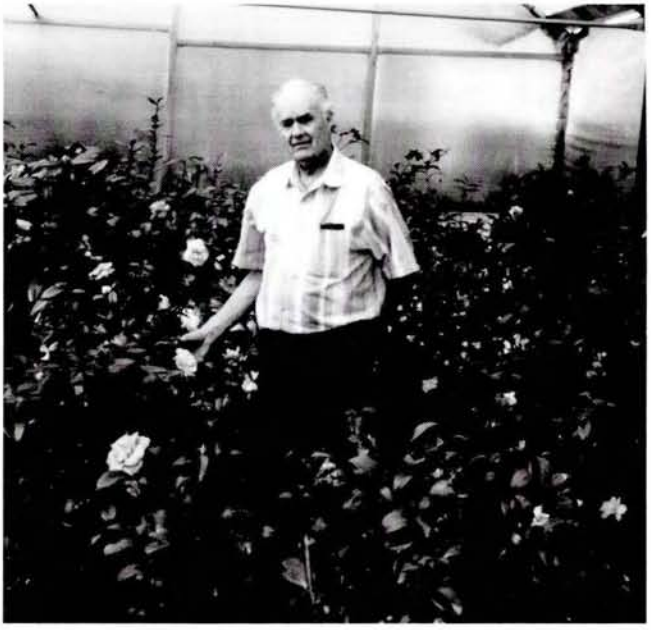
The best defense against Japanese beetles is preparation ahead of time. You must be ready for them and act the first moment you see them. They can do their damage in a short time. There are over 300 plant species they attack and camellias are somewhere near the bottom on this list; they like new growth and bloom buds. Fortunately for camellia growers, Japanese beetles need warmth and prefer to eat in full sun. Camellias like a filtered sun and heat-of-the-day shade.

The life cycle of the Japanese beetle is just like most other beetles. They emerge in the summer and im-



(U.S. Dept. Agr. Japanese Beetle Laboratory)

THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE BEETLE



Ray Bond among his beloved Camellias in the greenhouse in Dallas.

Bond

mediately look for food on their way to a place to mate, which is usually in groups on or near the top of a host plant which provides good food. They return to the ground at night. Later in the summer, the females lay their eggs about three inches deep, preferably in loose, moist, warm soil. In about two weeks, the eggs hatch and the grubs feed until cold weather. A snow cover insulates them from extreme cold during the winter. The following spring they mature and the cycle is repeated. The best way to kill Japanese beetles is before they mature. Kill the grubs before they pupate and emerge from the ground.

The 'japonensis' or 'buibui' strain of "Bt", applied in the early fall when grubs are feeding close to the surface, is an excellent killer of Japanese beetle grubs. Be sure to apply Bt in areas out of direct sun. Bt is also a partial control for mature beetles, chewing on the leaves.

Bacillus popilliae, (milky spore) though a weak pathogen for many grubs, is effective against Japanese beetle grubs. Milky spore is ingested by the grub and it liquefies their internal organs. It can remain in the soil for many years, but it may take several years for it to become effective. Milky spore is best for long term control.

Pyrethroids such as Tempo®, Talstar® and Mavrik® can be very ef-

fective as stomach poisons, when used as a foliar spray to control leaf eaters such as Japanese beetles. Pyrethroids have fewer adverse side effects and have relatively long residual activity. Quantity use of these pesticides is very small amounting to one tenth or one hundredth of the active ingredient required for most other pesticides. Talstar® (used like the chemical, Diazinon®), mixed with potting soil, is a good Japanese beetle grub killer in containerized camellias.

Merit®, has shown promise as a contact by "telling" the grub to stop eating. It can act as a systemic when applied around camellias. It is taken up through the roots and transported into the leaves thereby helping control these leaf eating insects. Later in the season, in late summer, its residual action can be good grub control.

Older chemical controls: Sevin® and rotenone work well, for mature Japanese beetles if you treat before they arrive and it is not washed away by spray or rain. Diazinon is not a good contact poison nor stomach poison (they won't eat it), but it is a very good grub killer.

Traps:

Mature japanese beetles are probably best, though marginally, controlled by (sex) scent traps. The greatest benefit of traps is probably that it attracts the beetle away from plants you don't want them to eat. So, be careful to place traps far away from any valuable plants. Three hundred yards is recommended. Japanese beetles will eat anything, particularly new plant growth, between themselves and the traps. Care must be taken to empty the traps frequently because they can fill quickly.

To Summarize:

For chewing insects, Sevin®, Diazinon®, Bt and pyrethroids will do just about all you need. Use systemics such as DiSyston®, Metasystox®, Oftanol®, or Triumph® very carefully. Pyrethroids (contact) and imidacloprid (nervous system regulator) can do well. Sevi® is the least expensive and easiest to use; but you have to stick with it until the bugs are gone.

Conclusion:

Quantities, chemicals, brand and trade names are used for reference and information only. We do not warrant nor guarantee the standard of any product mentioned herein, nor do we imply approval of any product to the exclusion of others which also may be suitable. Consult State Agricultural and Pesticide agencies for recommended chemicals registered by the State. Always follow instructions on the label.

ACCS MEETING
MYRTLE BEACH
SEPTEMBER 2002

Convention Hotel: **SAND CASTLE FAMILY RESORT**
Meeting Location: **MYRTLE BEACH ELKS CLUB**

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 27, 2002

3:00 pm	ACCS Board Meeting
5:00 pm	Open Bar and Bar-B-Que buffet around the pool at the Sand Castle. Drinks and Food furnished by ACCS.

Saturday, September 28, 2002

9:00 am	Bloody Mary Party at Elks Club Hosted by Bonnie and Geary Serpas
10:00 am	General Business Meeting and Auction at Elks Club
2:00 - 3:30 pm	Educational Programs at Elks Club
6:00 pm	Open bar at Elks Club, furnished by ACCS, followed by the Annual Banquet and Speaker.

Try This To Advertise Your Club

by Col. Ed Atkins
Shalimar, Florida

Enclosed is a photo of our billboard that we used to advertise our Camellia Show at Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. **It Really Worked!!!!** It listed the time, date and location of our show, plus the name of the hosting local club.

I thought you might like to print it in the next journal. For more information on how we did it, just contact me at 61 Country Club Road, Shalimar, Florida 32579-1610. This idea really works to gain interest in your show and add members to your club roll.

This billboard proudly proclaims the upcoming Camellia show in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Atkins

Virginia Camellia Society Show

Virginia Camellia Society
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
Norfolk, Virginia
March 24, 2002

Show Results

Submitted by Doug Simon
Blooms—654
Attendance—450

Best Large Japonica Open	**Helen Bower**	Frank Galloway
Runner-up	**R. L. Wheeler**	T. W. Gouldin
Best Medium Japonica Open	**Nuccio's Cameo**	Ed Minor
Runner-up	**Ville de Nantes**	Ercell Jackson
Best Small Japonica Open	**Black Tie**	Doug & Sally Simon
Runner-up	**Les Marbury**	Frank Galloway
Best Miniature	**Grace Albritton**	Melvin Stallings
Runner-up	**Grace Albritton Red**	Doug & Sally Simon
Best Large Japonica Protected	**Royal Velvet**	Bob Black
Runner-up	**Elegans Splendor**	Bob Black
Best Medium Japonica Protected	**Jean Clere**	Bob Black
Runner-up	**Tubby Habel**	Bob Black

Best Small Japonica Protected	**Black Tie Var.**	Bob Black
Runner-up	**Grace Albritton**	Bob Black
Best Reticulata	**Francie L.**	T. W. Gouldin
Runner-up	**Frank Houser Var.**	***Bob Black***
Best Hybrid	**Pink Dahlia**	Bob Black
Runner-up	**Charlean Var.**	Bob Black
Best White Bloom	**Swan Lake**	Bob Black
Runner-up	**Seafoam**	Bob Black
Best Novice Bloom	**Carters Sunburst**	Geraldine Patrick
Runner-up	**Fleurette**	Fred Johnston
Best Tray of Three Protected		Bob Black
Best Tray of Five Protected		Bob Black
Best Tray of Three Open		Ercell Jackson
Best Tray of Five Open		Frank Galloway
Best Large Seedling	**#104**	Melvin Stallings
Best Medium Seedling	**#106**	Melvin Stallings
Best Small Seedling	**unnamed**	Cara Chinery
Best Miniature Seedling	**Dr. Habel's #1205**	Doug and Sally Simon

Soil pH: Crucial for Nursery Crop Production

By Dr. Ray Tucker, Agronomist
N. C. Department of Agriculture
Raleigh, North Carolina

Adjusting the pH should be the first step in preparation for growing nursery crops. A proper pH is essential for providing a good nutritional environment for container and field grown nursery plants.

Nutrient availability, the effects of toxic components such as hydrogen (H) and aluminum (AL) and microbial activity are dramatically influenced by pH. If the pH is too low or too high it can have adverse effects on plant production

For example, when soil pH is high, micronutrients such as iron and manganese are less available. When soil pH is low, acid components restrict root growth and nutrient absorption. Futhermore, a proper pH is required for microorganisms to convert nutrient compounds to forms that can be utilized by plants.

pH is a measurement that indicates the degree of acidity or alkalinity of the growth media.

The scale for measuring pH ranges from 0 to 14. A pH of 7.0 is neutral, below 7.0 is acid, and above 7.0 is basic. Native pine bark would be classified as extremely acid with a pH ranging from 3.0 to 4.5.

As pH declines the amount of acid in the soil increases and can reach a level where it becomes toxic to plants. As pH increases, soils become more basic and can "tie up" certain micronutrients causing deficiency symptoms to appear. This is particularly true for iron. Most nursery crops grow better under moderately acidic conditions (pH 5.5 to 6.0). Some nursery crops prefer a pH at the lower end of the pH range, such as azaleas and rhododendrons.

If the soil pH is too low, it can be easily corrected. Lime applications neutralize soil acidity and raise the pH. In addition to neutralizing soil acidity, dolomitic lime provides enough calcium and magnesium to sustain growth for the entire growing period.

Although pH does not measure the nutrient content directly, it can

be used to indicate levels of calcium and magnesium. For example, soils to which dolmitic lime has been applied will have a higher pH and higher levels of calcium and magnesium.

Calcitic lime is equally effective in raising pH and supplying calcium, but contains little or no magnesium. Calcium and magnesium applied from commercial fertilizers have no liming capability and cannot be used as a substitute for lime to raise the soil pH.

Nursery crops are commonly grown in mixtures of pine bark and sand. Because this medium contains little or no aluminium, crops can be safely grown at a pH of 5.5 or less. Acid-loving plants such as azaleas and rhododendrons are more tolerant to aluminum than other nursery stock and grow well in acid soils.

Due to problems associated with aluminum toxicity, field-grown nursery stock requires a higher pH than container-grown stock. Field stock performs better when the pH is in the range of 5.8 to 6.0.

Hulyn Smith, of Valdosta, Georgia, compliments Gene Phillips, of Gene's Nursery in Savannah, Georgia, on his just-purchased Camellia at last year's auction in Myrtle Beach.

Darden

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:

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