

Atlantic Coast Camellias



Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society



Mary Edna Curlee

Vol. LII

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No. 3

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY ORGANIZED

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, organized September 13, 1980 at Myrtle Beach continues to grow in membership. It now has, as of December 1, 1980, 249 members.



Top left, president Helyn Smith; Top right, the whole motley crew; Center left, Angie McCoy and Mary Stringfellow at the banquet; Center right, Bill and Betty Kemp at the banquet; Lower left, Jim McCoy and Latimer McClintock sign up members at the pool party; Lower right, Mildred Robertson and Tyler Mizell with Anne Hackney's camellia paintings.

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Camellia photos on front and back covers are by Miles Beach.

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

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Hint

While working outside, wear long pants and loose shirts and spray well with insect repellent. West Nile virus is still around.

President's Message

By Lee Poe, Jr.

Dear Members and Friends:

Well it is mid-summer here in Aiken, SC as I write this letter for the September issue of the Journal. I don't want to talk too much about the weather but we have had lots of rain this year. I have had to water my camellias in containers only twice. Nature has taken care of the rest. (I normally water about two to three times per week.) With all of the rain, I have had no problems with root rot. In the spring, I did treat all of my camellias with Subdue CR fungicide and it seems to be working.

When many of you see this message we will be in Myrtle Beach and celebrating the ACCS 25th year anniversary. As you noted, the announcement of the meeting was different from usual and we are planning the convention to celebrate our twenty-five years as a society. You will hear about our accomplishments over this time and how we will use this experience to chart our future. This is a

very exciting time for ACCS.

The ACCS Spring Board meeting was held on May 7, 2005 at the beautiful home of Pete and Donna Denton just outside of Columbia, SC. The meeting was held there at the invitation of the Mid Carolina Camellia Society and all of our Board members enjoyed and participated in the plant auction and the barbecue. One of the issues discussed by the Board was the increased cost of the Fall Convention. The Board members decided it was necessary to raise the convention fee slightly to cover the increased cost of the convention.

Summer is time for camellia propagation. I have been sprouting the many seeds I collected last fall and now I have hundreds of small pots with camellia plants. A number of us started air layering camellias to get new plants. At the time I wrote this letter, we have harvested none of these new plants but by the time you will be reading this, we hope to have most harvested and have hundreds of

new plants. Several of my friends have had good success in new grafts this year and cuttings have rooted well this year.

As fall approaches, requests to come and talk to garden clubs begin to come in. I enjoy talking at the various garden clubs because it is one way I can spread my love of camellias to others. I would encourage all of us to accept invitations to talk about our love of camellias. A couple years ago, I was talking to one of our newer members who said he had been invited to speak about camellias but didn't know what to say. I invited him to go with me and listen to a talk I made to a lo-

cal garden club. He discovered that he knew lots about camellias and has since accepted several invitations and he loves to talk about camellias. I encourage those of us who talk to garden clubs to invite younger camellia growers to accompany you. You might find you start another grower talking about their love for camellias.

In closing, let me thank you for allowing me to ramble on about my love for camellias and to stress to you "use good camellia culture for your plants". I look forward to seeing many of you in Myrtle Beach and I am looking forward to the beginning of the camellia blooming season.



Gibbing a Camellia

Now is the time to gib for beautiful blooms
before freezing weather.

Drawing from *Atlantic Coast Camellias*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 1, Spring 1997

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

*25th Anniversary
Celebration*

*The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
Convention will be held
September 23 and 24, 2005
at the Sandcastle Family Resort
1802 North Ocean Boulevard
Myrtle Beach
South Carolina 29577*

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

*2005 Convention
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*

Event's Schedule

Friday, September 23, 2005

- 2:00 pm Registration, Sandcastle Resort
 Board Meeting, Elks Lodge*
- 5:00 pm Barbecue, Bar, poolside, Sandcastle
 Food and Drinks by ACCS
 Deserts by Members*

Saturday, September 24, 2005

All Events at Elks Lodge

- 9:00 am Screwdriver and Bloody Mary Party*
- 9:45 am ACCS General Business Meeting
 Followed by auction (Buck and Bill Show)*
- 2:00-3:00 pm Educational Programs:
 Husquvarna Rep. — Demonstration of one
 of their new grass cutting machines*
- Richard Mims — Workshop: How to submit
 information needed for Journal articles*
- 6:00 pm Cocktails followed by Banquet,
 Recognition of Past Presidents,
 History of ACCS and Guest Speaker,
 Ann Clapp of North Carolina*

Camellia Friend

By Fred Hahn

Conrad Furr was a charter and a very active member of the Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte. I have not seen him in fifteen years. He came to see our show this year and his visit brought back many memories. He remarked that he and I were the only two left from the old original club. I had joined the club in 1953.

He and his brothers operated a feed, seed and plant store in downtown Charlotte and a nursery just out of town. Harry Watson (deceased member) and I used to visit their nursery on our lunch hour. My first camellia plant

was purchased at Furr's Nursery.

Conrad sent trucks to the Gulf Coast area to bring back many truck loads of B and B camellias to the Charlotte area. One year, they placed some of the plants that didn't sell in his brother's backyard just on top of the ground and they grew real well. He then realized camellias need to be planted high in the heavy red soil we have here in this area.

Conrad really loved camellias and I am so glad that his wife brought him to see the show.



Left to right: Clara Hahn, Caroline DeJesus, Nell Palm, Fred Hahn
Center seated: Conrad Furr

Photo by: Pat Kostell

25th Anniversary Participants — Join NOW!

(Membership is a great gift for friends and family!!!)

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

We are a society who wants more members to help us promote the science of Camellia culture by exchanging knowledge and ideas with Camellia specialists, provide information about shows and social events and join us at our annual meeting in Myrtle Beach in September or October each year. Annual dues are \$12.50 per year for singles or couples. A membership entitles you to a journal published in Spring, Summer and Fall. To join, send your check and personal information for receiving communications and journals to:

**ACCS
Bonnie Serpas
229 Green Street
Santee, SC 29142**

Membership Form

ACCS Dues 9/1/05-8/31/06 Single or Double \$12.50

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number (include Area Code): _____

E-Mail: _____

HISTORY OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

By Mildred Robertson

PREFACE

The following is a brief history of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society compiled through a review of minutes from past conventions and meetings and from searching the memories of some of the people who were involved from the very beginning. In addition to Son Hackney and Latimer McClintock, who are referenced in the history, there were a number of other people who were actively involved and I did not attempt to name them for fear that someone would be omitted. But you know who you are

and please know that we as members of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society are very grateful to you for your contributions to the success of this organization.

I am unaware of any recorded history other than through minutes which are available for every meeting and convention, however, we have a very fine pictorial history which has been kept through the years by our historians. This is evidenced through scrapbooks which are available at all the conventions.

HISTORY

Every great idea begins somewhere - a moment in time. For the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society that moment began back in the late nineteen seventies in the mind of Son Hackney. Son had become concerned about declining membership in local so-

cieties and feared some of them would have to disband. He had a vision of a regional society where any member of a defunct state society might join and have some representation to ACS. While attending a convention of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society he

wondered aloud to some of his friends if a similar type Camellia Society could be successful on the Atlantic Coast. Confident assurances from his friends and promises of support were the only catalysts he needed to get his idea off the ground and into action.

Son immediately started making contact with officers of the various state societies along the Atlantic Coast as well as other individuals active in growing and promoting Camellias. His legendary enthusiasm for Camellias was contagious and soon he had most of those whom he had contacted on board. A number of meetings were held in different locations to discuss and make plans for this new Camellia Society. When all the necessary groundwork had been done and it was obvious that the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society could become a viable organization, Son set about coordinating details for an organizational meeting. The first convention/organizational meeting was held on September 12-13, 1980 at the Holiday Inn in Myrtle Beach, S. C. since this was considered a good central location for the Atlantic

Coast.

On Friday night, September 12, 1980 some one hundred and seventy Camellia people assembled at 6:00 PM for a cocktail party sponsored by the Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte of which Son was a member.

In the motel's main dining room on Saturday morning, September 13, 1980, a breakfast was sponsored by Son and Ann Hackney of Charlotte. At this breakfast the slate of proposed officers was presented. They had been contacted in advance of the meeting by Son Hackney in his position as coordinator of the meeting and had agreed to serve. They were President - Hulyn Smith; First Vice President - Oliver Mizzell; Second Vice President - Annabelle Fetterman; Secretary/Treasurer - J. Latimer McClintock; Asst. Secretary/Treasurer - James H. McCoy and Historian - Curtis Godwin.

At the business session following breakfast, discussions concerned By-Laws and Constitution and the immediate incorporation of the society. A preliminary set of By-Laws and Constitution had been for-

mulated by J. Latimer McClintock and Son Hackney. These were presented to those present and approved.

Directors were selected from each state with representatives in attendance. The number of directors from each state was in accordance with rules set forth in the By-Laws and Constitution. They were Mrs. Charles F. Urguhart - Virginia; C. C. Mason - Virginia; Joe Austin - North Carolina; Jack Hendrix - North Carolina; Col. Elliott P. Brogdon - South Carolina; William C. Robertson - South Carolina; Leslie P. Cawthon - Georgia; Marvin Jernigan - Georgia; M. S. Edward - Florida and Jim Lively - Tennessee. One person was to be appointed from the Potomac Valley. The election of these directors completed the first set of officers and directors who would serve in this newly organized society.

At 2:30 PM in the main dining room of the Holiday Inn the actual organizational meeting was held with Son Hackney presiding. Son spoke of his activities in organizing the meeting and introduced the proposed slate of officers and directors. A mo-

tion was made that the nominations be closed and the slate as presented was elected.

At 4:30 PM Son met in executive session with the new slate of officers and directors. Tentative plans for an ACCS convention in 1981 were discussed. The dates of September 25-26 were suggested and the Holiday Inn would again be the meeting headquarters. Jack Hendrix was appointed to be in charge of handling the details with the Holiday Inn and also for the banquet at the Yachtsman, an adjacent motel.

The Saturday night banquet at the first convention was held at the Yachtsman Motel. For this event Ann Hackney had done two lovely Camellia paintings and she donated them and raffle tickets were sold to help raise "seed" money to get this new organization going. The paintings were raffled as a pair and were won by Jim Lively of Nashville, Tenn. In 2004 Mr. Lively donated these paintings back to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society and again raffle tickets have been and are going to be sold so they are still raising money for us.

In January of 1981 the Articles of Incorporation were

signed in North Carolina and the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society became a legal Non-Profit Corporation.

The second convention was again held at the Holiday Inn but business meetings were held at the Trinity Episcopal Church and the banquet on Saturday night was at the White Point Restaurant.

On September 30, 1983, at the Board Meeting held at the Holiday Inn in Myrtle Beach, Geary Serpas, President of the S. C. Camellia Society advised that due to declining membership the S. C. Camellia Society had voted to disband and merge with the the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. South Carolina had 285 members and 21 life members. Bill Robertson proposed that the ACCS take over the Carolina Camellias publication from South Carolina and make it into a publication for the Atlantic Coast. The 1984 dues for the S. C. members would pay for the 1984 issues and then a \$5000 certificate of deposit along with any other assets would be turned over to the ACCS. This proposal was adopted and James H. McCoy would become the first editor of what became the Atlantic

Coast Camellia Journal.

The North Carolina Society had also voted to disband . They had 85 members and three life members and all their assets were turned over to ACCS.

Virginia did not plan to disband but would continue to support the Atlantic Coast and its publication.

A review of the previous minutes first mentions Bill Robertson and Buck Mizzell as auctioneers at the Saturday night banquet on October 1, 1983. What a tradition that has become. Along the way, the auction became a morning event following the general business meeting. Over the years considerable sums of money have been raised through the efforts of these two and by the generous donation of plants and other items by members.

Our first events at the Elks Club began in 1986 and have continued to be held there every year since.

In 1986 Sadie Lyon started painting and donating a watercolor of a Camellia every year. She continued this up until the time of her death.

On November 11, 1989 there was a special called

meeting to discuss the resignation of Secretary/Treasurer J. L. McClintock and the acceptance of Fred and Clara Hahn as his replacement.

In 1989 the convention was cancelled for the only time due to damage to the Holiday Inn caused by Hurricane Hugo. Repairs were made to the motel and we returned there in 1990.

In 1995 the motel was sold and the building razed and that year we moved to the Sand Castle Resort where we have been since.

Over the years we have had twelve presidents not including the current one. Each has served for a two year term. They were as follows: Hulyn Smith - 1980-1982; Annabelle Fetterman - 1983-1984; Col. Elliott P. Brogden - 1985-1986; Richard Waltz - 1987-1988; Leslie Cawthon - 1989-1990; Marion Edwards - 1991-1992; Mildred Robertson - 1993-1994; Ed Powers - 1995-1996; Bill Hardwick - 1997-1998; Jeanette Waltz - 1999-2000; Geary Serpas - 2001-2002; and Bob Reese - 2003-2004.

Two past presidents are now deceased - Col. Elliott Brogden and Marion Ed-

wards.

Three women have served as president - Annabelle Fetterman, Mildred Robertson and Jeanette Waltz.

One husband and wife each served as president - Richard and Jeanette Waltz.

We have had two secretary/treasurers who served long terms - J. Latimer McClintock and Fred and Clara Hahn. Bonnie Serpas now serves as treasurer and Mildred Robertson as secretary.

We have had four historians - Curtis Godwin, Bill and Donna Shepherd, Pat Pinkerton, and now Cheryl Thompson.

Four people have edited our Camellia publication - Jim McCoy; Jim Darden who served as editor at two different times, Dr. Dave Scheibert, and presently Richard Mims

Six of our members have served as President of the American Camellia Society. These were Annabelle Fetterman, Carl Allen, Tom Evans, Ed Powers, Art Gonos, and now the current president, Hulyn Smith.

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society has been in very capable hands over these twenty-five years and we are

sure it will continue to flourish as new leadership steps forward.

Son's vision for a good regional society has come true and the purposes for which we were organized have been realized - to stimulate and to extend the appreciation of camellias; to promote the sci-

ence of Camellia culture; and to bring together in friendship and fellowship Camellia growers and those interested in camellias in the Atlantic Coast and adjoining states.

The state of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society after twenty five years appears very good.



James H. McCoy, the first editor of *Atlantic Coast Camellias*, used many of his drawings. This drawing decorated the inside back cover of *Carolina Camellias*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 1, Winter 1981.

Grafting Fred Hahn Style

By Richard Mims

"I must know a little about grafting because I got ten out of twelve takes this year." Fred Hahn is not known for bragging. He was just telling the truth. Indeed, he is somewhat subdued and is reluctant to expound on his method of growing those excellent blooms or on grafting or on anything else. I don't think that he thinks his method differs much from what other people do. I, however, beg to disagree. He just beats the "h" out of most of us in the large to very large and reticulata categories. There is hardly a time I have talked with Fred that I have failed to learn something new about growing camellias.

Yes, Fred, you know how to graft and harden the grafts off. I know this from examining the grafts not completely hardened off you gave me during your recent illness. I think from looking at your method, I now know how to graft successfully. You didn't tell me whether or not the

method is original with you or where you got it from but I don't recall reading about it or seeing others use your method.

Dr. John Bigger plans to "embarrass" me a little with a "tongue in cheek" article that will be published in the ACS Journal about my failure to have my grandson cover "hardening off grafts" adequately in the last ACCS Journal. For mostly John's benefit (but also for other would-be grafters) I am going to tell you Fred's method. It looks great! It looks easy! And best of all, it is successful!

When Fred grafts, he takes the bottom out of a waxed paper cup higher than the cut on the under stock where the union of under stock and scion takes place. That bottomless cup was placed over the scion and stub of under stock and was filled with sand above the union. The cup of sand and grafted union were then covered with a bottomless, two-liter plastic drink bottle. He

then sealed the bottom of the bottle by putting sand nearly up to the brim of the container holding the under stock. The sand was over an inch deep. I don't think a heavy wind would blow it off.

When the bud on the scion started swelling for its first leaves, the cover of the bottle was removed and the top fitted with a loose fitting pad bottle top made with tinfoil. As the new graft grew the tinfoil was removed. Next the top slanted portion of the bottle was cut out with scissors leaving a plastic cylinder still surrounding the inverted waxed cup filled with sand

covering the union of under stock and scion. The cylinder was left imbedded in sand. The scion was allowed to grow up above the cylinder to its heart's content still benefiting from the moisture and protection of the sand and moisture inside the plastic cylinder.

Later the cylinder can easily be cut down the side with scissors and the sand may be washed out with a soft stream of water to soil level. A sprinkling of soil mixture may be done if needed. Now the graft is on its way to becoming a specimen plant with show winning blooms.



(Now we know what
Fred drinks!)

(and now we also know
where Fred gets his
cups!)



Make a Compost Pile

By Richard Mims

Make a compost pile. Dump that garden waste, grass clippings, weeds, garbage from vegetation, shredded paper and new papers, vacuum cleaner waste, pet hair, pruned branch tips and any other organic stuff you are now hauling away. Turn all of that ugly stuff into beautiful plants that relish humus.

Talk to a dozen people who make their own compost and you will undoubtedly hear a dozen recipes. That's all fine and dandy. All will boil down to a basic formula.

While most of us just add any type of compost material without giving much attention to proportion. Proportion is very important for composting in a short period of time. If time isn't a factor, organic materials will eventually decompose regardless of proportion of the mixture.

By proportion we are talking about the balance of nitrogen and carbon material added to a compost pile. Think of nitrogenous materials as greens and carbon materials as

browns. Greens are not necessarily the color green or browns could be white or other colors. Coffee grounds, pig, cow and horse manure are brown—but all manures have a high nitrogenous content and are considered greens. Now grass clippings can be green or brown but in composting they are greens. These greens should be one part of ten parts. The other nine parts should be browns such as paper, bark, and other wood products, straw and of course, leaves. Usually an over abundance of leaves implants the desire to make our own compost. Grinding of the above whether they are greens or browns will speed up the composting process.

Meat, bones and types of wastes that may attract rodents, flies, and exude unpleasant odors should be avoided. Diseased or dead camellia limbs and leaves should not be used in making compost in which camellias might grow.

At the center of a working

compost pile, temperatures reach 120 degrees to 140 degrees. Most diseased plants or infected leaves are destroyed in the process. However some that might not reach the center of the pile in the "turning" process could cause problems.

The turning process should take place when the temperature at the center of the pile reaches 140 degrees and temperature begins to fall. By turning new material from the outside to the center refuels the heating process and temperatures rise again. Fresh animal manures, when available, also speed up the heating (composting) process.

To make compost piles attention should be given to size. The dimensions must be at least a yard square or in diameter—four feet is better. The pile can be a series of bins, perhaps three. By layering proper proportions in Bin #1 and letting it "heat" then transfer or turn into bin #2. The new mixture heats again and when cooled down to about 140 degrees, it is turned a second time into Bin 3. At this stage most of the compost is usable, although it may need to be sieved to the size particles you want. Contrary

to most people's opinion, the compost you make has a nice earthy smell. It does not stink and a gardener doesn't mind handling it. The pile can also be a cylinder of wire similar to but larger than a tomato cage. To keep material moist on sides of cylinder, polyethylene can be used. Line the inside of the wire and pin the top of the poly to the wire with finishing nails.

Composting should be done in an area hidden from view where it doesn't offend neighbors or interfere with a family's other activities.

After a compost pile is stacked (layered), it should be thoroughly moistened and then covered with poly or a tarpaulin. The cover keeps elements from leaching nutrients and holds in moisture.

As fuel costs go up, below ground composting can be used to help heat greenhouses and provide moisture to the air. Adding new materials such as raw animal composts to the center of the pile will keep the temperature high. (Has anyone tried this? If so, please write us an article.)

Unfortunately most greens are available in summer in the form of grass and weed clip-

pings and most browns are available in fall in the form of leaves. If space is available, save greens until fall and then layer the compost pile. Fresh grass clippings may mat or sour if piled alone unless layered thinly and covered or mixed with brown items as bark or sawdust. Take care if fresh sawdust is used. It tends to rob soil of nitrogen. When sawdust is used in a compost

pile adding a little nitrogenous fertilizer is in order. Many people also add lime. When camellia growers used to use sawdust in containers before discovering ground bark, they sought piles about twenty or more years old. Sawdust is now hard to find because it is used commercially. If you live near a pond, water plants may be used in composting.

- Step 1 – Build bins or wire circles lined with poly to contain compost.
- Step 2 – Layer 1 part green (nitrogenous) materials and then 9 parts browns (carbons). Occasionally add a few shovels full of regular soil containing humus which is loaded with the organisms needed to break down the humus. There is no need to buy these organisms to start a compost pile.
- Step 3 – Sprinkle fertilizer and/or lime on layers (not compulsory).
- Step 4 – When layers heat and then cool to 140 degrees, turn compost pile
- Step 5 – Mix compost, called “brown gold,” with bark and sand for excellent camellia growing soil.

Hints

Some growers prune extra or thick growth in September or October to enhance the size of blooms.

Camellias may be planted from September through spring. Water in thoroughly and stake if necessary.

2005-2006 Camellia Show Dates

- Oct. 7 Columbia, SC, Mid-Carolina Camellia Society, South Carolina State Fair, Show Co-Chairs: Buck & Tyler Mizzell.
- Oct. 15 Perry, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Georgia National Fair, Contact: Warren Thompson 478-825-2559
- Oct. 29 Murrell's Inlet, SC, Grand Strand Camellia Club, Brookgreen Gardens, Contact: Mack McKinnon 843-651-3363
- Nov. 12 Ft. Valley, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Massee Lane Gardens Barn, Contact: Warran Thompson.
- Dec. 3 Jacksonville, FL, Camellia Society of North Florida, Mandarin Garden Club, Contact: Bill Falta
- Jan. 7 Gainesville, FL, Gainsville Camellia Society, Oaks Mall, Contact: Jerome A. Hogsette, Jr.
- Jan. 14 Tallahassee, FL, Tallahassee Camellia Club, Doyle Conner Administration Building, Contact: David Skelton 850 383-0914
- Jan. 21 Aiken, SC, The Aiken Camellia Society, Aiken Mall, 2441 Whiskey Road, Contact: David Sheets 803 279-0272
- Jan. 28 Charleston, SC, The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society, The Citadel Mall, Contact: Lee Kline
- Feb. 4 Charlotte, NC, The Charlotte Camellia Society, Place to be announced
- Feb. 11 Columbia, SC, Md-Carolina Camellia Society, Richland Mall, Forest Drive, Show Chair: Donna Denton.
- Feb. 18 Atlanta, GA, North Georgia Camellia Society, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Contact: John Newsome 404 355-4478
- Feb. 25 Wilmington, NC, Tidewater Camellia Society, Walter L. Parsley Elementary School
- Mar. 4 Fayetteville, NC, Cross Creek Mall, Show Chair: Glenn Capps 910 323-9891

Editor's Page

By James McCoy

(Reprint from *Carolina Camellias*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, Fall 1983)

"The old order changeth, giving way to the new," says the poet. I do not remember who the poet is or even the name of the poem, but it really doesn't matter here. It is just a good way of describing what is happening to South Carolina and North Carolina Camellia Societies. I'm sure all members of these two societies are aware that **something** is going on. You might not know exactly what. You should. If one is uninformed, he imagines the worst. Let's take one society at a time.

For some years, the financial health of South Carolina Camellia Society had been deteriorating. Membership had been dropping at the rate of about 10 percent per year. Cost of everything, especially for publishing *Carolina Camellias*, had been rising.

The Officers and Directors realized that the society was getting deeper and deeper into financial quick sand, despite all efforts to raise money such as plant auctions and other

activities. Efforts had been made to cut the cost of publishing *Carolina Camellias*: the size was reduced from 32 pages to 28; the colored camellia on the cover was replaced by a pen and ink drawing; consideration given to cut number of copies printed from 1000 to 750. Nothing seemed to help! The point was reached where the society could not continue to publish *Carolina Camellias*. There just would not be funds to pay the printer.

At Myrtle Beach this year, South Carolina Camellia Society Officers and Directors unanimously agreed to propose to the members that *Carolina Camellias*, along with all assets and membership, be turned over to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. In effect South Carolina Camellia Society would merge with Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. The offer was subsequently made to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, contingent upon approval of the

members. This offer was accepted under this condition.

Now, members of South Carolina Camellia Society, **please** go ahead and pay your dues as usual. No change can be made until well into 1984, and every nickel is needed. South Carolina Camellia Society is going ahead and pay for this issue and the winter issue which will be coming out in early 1984. Send your check to your new treasurer. Mr. Stanley Holtzclaw, 314 Morrow Street, Greer, SC 29651.

As far as North Carolina Camellia Society goes, it no longer exists. The society has been dissolved. Those of you who have already mailed in dues will have these dues returned. Membership in the society had dropped to 88 members, down from 131 in 1980. Financially, the society found itself unable to meet its obligations. The members were polled, and the overwhelming opinion was that the society should disband and turn over assets to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. This was done when Harris New-

ber, treasurer of North Carolina Camellia Society, presented to the president of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society a check for \$204.61 at the ACCS convention in Myrtle Beach. Now, I know you are wondering: "What about *Carolina Camellias*? Does this mean that I will no longer receive it?" The answer is "yes" and "no." You will receive the next issue which will be coming out in early 1984. This is a gift from South Carolina Camellia Society. After that, you will have to be a member of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society to receive the magazine, assuming that the members of South Carolina Camellia Society vote to merge with ACCS. So, **please** come on and join Atlantic Coast. Why don't you do it **right now!** If you put it off, you might forget. Go get your check book, make out a check for \$9.00 to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, and mail it to Mr. Latimer McClintock, 1325 East Barden Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

**California Italian Community
Federated which represents
69 Clubs makes
Sergio Bracci
Italian Man of The Year**

June 4 is celebrated in Italy because it is the day Italy became a Republic. On that anniversary date, June 4, 2005, the Federated made Atlantic Coast Camellia Society member, Sergio Bracci, Italian Man of the Year. He received many proclamations from City Officials.

Sergio was born in Monte di Villa, in the province of Lucca, Tuscany, eighty years ago. At the age of three, he and his parents migrated to Chicago along with two brothers.

After graduating first in his class from Lane Technical High School, he began work for Armstrong Tool Company. In 1941 his family moved to California, leaving behind young Sergio. Not long after he moved west to be with his family, he was drafted into the Army where he served for three years.

After World War II, Sergio met his future wife, Elsie,

whom he married in 1946. The couple reared three wonderful children: Danny who is in the insurance business; Steven, a law professor; and Sandra (Fondi), a risk manager for a large company. Sergio and Elsie are also grandparents of six, and great-grandparents of three.

In California with brother Silvano, and as a good "lucchese," he started a statutory business. They were soon joined by brother Nilo. Sergio retired at age 55 to enjoy his family.

Wanting to be involved with his children, the Boy Scouts became an integral part of Sergio's life. He became a Scoutmaster for five years, a District Commissioner, and was the recipient of the Medal of the Order of the Silver Beaver, the highest honor bestowed on a non-scout. He also helped with Girl Scout projects, one of which was the construction of a float for the

Temple City Camellia Parade, which the girls covered with camellia petals and which earned a first place in the division.

The making of the camellia petal covered float was perhaps the beginning of a love affair that Sergio has had with the Camellia. His knowledge of the camellia has taken him and Elsie into many places in the world—Japan, New Zealand, Australia, as well as countless locations in these United States, lecturing about the Camellia.

Sergio has received many honors including an Honorary

Life Membership in the Southern California Camellia Society and the dedication to him of the *2004 Yearbook of the American Camellia Society*.

Sergio Bracci is the current president of the Garibaldina Society, the vice president of the Historic Italian Hall Foundation, the architect of the Mille Grazie Wall of the Historic Italian Hall, a member of its Building Committee, a member of the L.A. Chapter of UNICO National, and the vice president of the American Camellia Society West Coast.



Sergio and Elsie Bracci

How To Kill Camellias

By Col. Edwin L. Atkins, Shalimar, FL

(reprint from

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Sometime ago while watching a funeral pass down the street, I noticed two funeral cars side by side followed by a man leading a very large dog. Behind him, single file for two city blocks, was a line of men. When I asked the man about the two cars, he told me in one was his wife and in the other was his mother-in-law. He then told me his dog had bitten them both and caused their deaths. I then asked, "How about borrowing your dog?" "Sure," he replied, "Get in line!" If anyone thinks he can kill camellias quicker than me, he will have to get in line.

I began growing camellias about 10 years ago. My wife, June, and I became "hooked" after three or four plants were given to us to plant in our yard following the construction of a new home. Following the blooming season the following spring, we became more interested, adding to our collection in the yard as well as

several in containers. Through the years, we have had some 600 varieties of japonicas and reticulatas. We have narrowed this down to some 360 plus varieties. We select some new plants each year, and keep those whose names appear most frequently in the shows around the country. Through my systematic killing program, we have weeded out many of the older varieties and hard to grow kinds. Each year, I graft 75 to 100, plus buying another 25 to 30 plants. This way, I always have ample stock on hand to keep up my killing program. I kill 25 to 30 each year in one way or another. The only difference between me and most of you is I don't mind admitting my mistakes. Some of you take out your dead plants in the middle of the night or slip off to the garbage dump, hoping no one will see you. There must be 100 ways to kill a camellia, and I'm sure that I know them all! But be-

cause of time, I will list and briefly discuss only a few of the more popular ways.

1. Over watering: Probably the most popular way. Potting mixtures are generally the cause. Most of us who grow plants in containers buy them from different places, and seldom, if ever, is the potting soil the same. Because of this, watering correctly becomes next to impossible, some cans need water every day or two, while others in the same size can, can go 10 days or more depending on the types of soil in the cans. Too wet roots, as you all know, results in root rot. Best known way to prevent this is to standardize your mix. As soon after buying a new plant, if you plant to keep it in a can, repot it into your own mix. A loose mixture that drains well works best.

2. Over feeding: the second way to kill a camellia is to feed it twice or three times as much as the bag recommends. Often we think that if a little is good, a lot will be better. This works for pain pills, or at least that's what the ad men would like us to believe. But not for camellias. I have found through the years that camellias really require very little feeding. On the Gulf Coast, where we have lots

of sand, we like to begin in February through April with small amounts of 12-6-6 (with trace elements). We usually skip May and begin again in June with 0-6-8 or something similar when the bloom buds are beginning to form, and feed them for two months. Again in October, a small amount to bump the early gib blooms.

3. Over potting: Camellias do well and bloom better for me if they are a little root bound. We often make the mistake, when going to a larger size can, of selecting a size too large. Root and leaf systems are able to absorb only a certain amount of liquid each day, and this also depends upon weather conditions, such as heat and humidity. Adding too much soil, if watered as before, will eventually kill the plant. I try not to increase the size over 1 inch, sides and bottom, and I water very little so the new roots will go looking for water in the new soil.

4. Don't spray for scale or to prevent dieback: If you like yellow leaves, don't spray for scale and if you don't mind the leaves turning brown and the twigs and branches dying slowly, don't worry about dieback. On the other hand, a

weekly spraying of Benlate (1 tablespoon to a gallon of water) soil, tamp lightly, water and do not feed.

with the addition of a small amount of Cygon or Isotox during the early spring growing season will usually control both bugs and dieback. Some growers paint the lower trunks with a slurry (white wash) of Benlate.

5. Don't plant the camellias properly: If you would rather kill the camellia some other way, then make the hole large enough both in diameter and in depth. Six to twelve inches larger than the root ball is helpful. Be careful not to plant the ball lower than the ground level. Fill the bottom of the hole with two inches of loose soil or bark, fill the sides with loose potting

6. Keep the P/h low: a P/h of 4 or lower is a very good way to kill a camellia, almost as good as a 72 hour sunning of the roots! Although camellias are said to be acid-loving plants, I have found that a P/h of 6.5 to 7 will eliminate a lot of problems. Many will not agree, but if you ain't tried it, don't knock it!

There are several other good ways to kill a camellia. But the above list should keep your inventory of plants low enough so that every time a new bloom comes out that you just must have, you will have sufficient room to store them. Good luck, which ever direction you go.

Hints

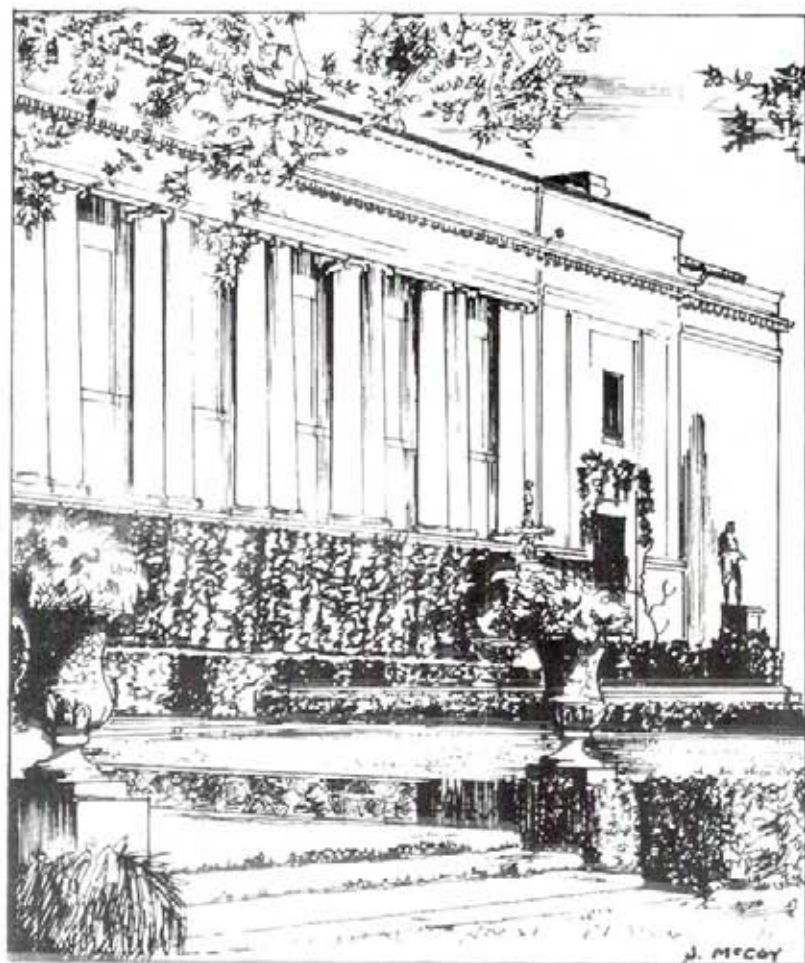
Styrofoam boxes seems to be the container of choice to transport blooms to a show.

When pruning off dead limbs, cut back to healthy wood—wood which does not have a dark spot in the center.

Cut a show bloom right before its peak. The fresh sheen and stamens are more important in judging than the extra growth a bloom would achieve in a day.

Camellia seed pods may be picked before they open naturally. Gathering them early may keep animals from getting them before you do.

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