

Atlantic Coast Camellias

Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society



Magic City

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*In memory of Buddy Cawthon
5th President of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
1926 - 2006*

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Supplee

Front Cover: Magic City

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Photos courtesy of Warren and Cheryl Thompson	

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

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Hint

Now is the time to think of Christmas presents. Consider giving that special someone a membership to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society and/or the American Camellia Society!

—
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: _____

**In Loving Memory of
Leslie P. (Buddy) Cawthon**

February 23, 1926—July 9, 2006



Memorial services for Buddy Cawthon were held at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, GA on July 13, 2006 and at Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC the following Monday.

Buddy died almost a month after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. He was at Masee Lane at a meeting, still actively serving the American Camellia Society when the first symptoms of his illness were evident.

Buddy served as the fifth president of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society from 1989-1990. He was wonderful at organizing shows, teaching workshops, recruiting judges, and was active not only on the local club level, but also at the national level.

The entire Camellia world will greatly miss Buddy.

Picture provided by Warren and Cheryl Thompson, taken May 2006.

President's Message

Lee Poe

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 harp on the weather, but we have had very little rain this year. This is quite different than last year when rain was plentiful and I had to water my camellias in containers only twice, I spent my time having to water them twice each week this year. My potting soil was very coarse (two parts compost and one part sand) and it has excellent drainage. (I normally water about two to three times per week when it is as hot and dry as it has been.) With this soil mixture, I have had no problem with root-rot this year. In the spring of last year I was having root-rot problems, I treated all of my camellias with Subdue CR fungicide. Fungicide coupled with using a coarse soil mixture seems to have taken care of the root rot problem.

This year, although I watered two to three times a week I still lost about 65 plants that were planted in one gallon or smaller containers. Most were air layers that were one to three years old. As I emptied the con-

tainers, the soil was dry and the plants had essentially no root ball. The dirt fell away from the sphagnum-moss that I used in air layering the camellias. Roots had not sufficiently developed. Some of the sphagnum-moss had good roots in that small root ball but it became obvious that the soil outside that did not have a wetting agent to coax the roots out of the ball. Many of the root balls looked like I had just removed the air layers from the parent plant. I conclude that when I watered the plants with the hose the water moved from the surface to the ground outside the pots and did not wet the roots. To help correct this problem I put peat-moss into my potting mix. The potting mix I am now using is two parts compost, one part coarse sand and one half parts peat moss. I can tell a significant difference in water-holding capability of the soil. I hope you don't hear from me next year saying the root-rot has returned. I now know the adage "live and learn." I guess I would add "live, experiment and learn."

When I next see most of you

it will be at the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Convention in Myrtle Beach. I hope you have your reservations made and are planning to attend the convention. From my personal experience, I enjoy seeing and talking with each of you.

I hope each of you received the timely message that Buddy Cawthon died of cancer in mid-July. He will be greatly missed at our camellia functions and helping John Newsome with details at the Atlanta Camellia Show.

The ACCS Spring Board meeting was held on May 6, 2006 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 major 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 \$70) to cover the increased cost of the convention.

Summer is time for camellia propagation. I am collecting the many seeds that set last spring; I will give many away to begin-

ning growers. At this time of year, the seeds are mature but outside pods have not dried and split open releasing the individual seeds. I find that if I wait for them to dry, on the bushes, the pod splits open and the seeds fall out, making them difficult to find. When I attend local garden clubs this fall, I will describe how to germinate these seeds and will give seeds to all who want them upon a promise to plant them. When I see these gardeners later, they are excited that they now have camellia plants from seeds that they sprouted. A number from the Aiken Camellia Club have air layering camellias to get new plants. At the time I wrote this letter, we have harvested none of this year's air layered plants, but by the time you will be reading this, we will have harvested resulting in hundreds of potted new plants. Several of my friends have had good success in new grafts this year and cuttings have rooted well this year.

In closing, thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the past two years and a member of the executive board for six years. I enjoy being a part of this society, and look forward to many more years as a society member.

Editor's Column

Richard Mims

Thinking back over approximately the last fifty years, growing camellias has been my major hobby. I, similar to many of you, have read about the subject extensively, joined societies, and attended meetings. Best of all, through societies we have met each other at our meetings and shows. After our meetings and get-togethers we share experiences and increase our knowledge of the genus *Camellia*. Yet, throughout the fifty years I have noticed that many growers are reluctant to tell others just what they do that contributes to great success in growing excellent flowers. I don't think it's because they want to keep what they know a secret to keep down competition although this has been done in the past (i.e., the first users of gibberelic acid). I think it is because of several things: they think something they tell you could be overdone to the detriment of camellia plants and blame might be placed on them; many of us do not keep records and don't remember exactly what we did; we don't think we

can add to what the person knows already; we have an inferiority complex and just don't think what we know is worth telling anybody; we are afraid that what we tell somebody is technically incorrect and it might show up our ignorance.

Judging from articles, we know that there are many, many ways of doing things that contribute not only to successful propagation but also to getting those beautiful head-table winners at camellia shows. Think back to meetings of your individual societies when a panel discusses, for example, fertilization. Of course, panel discussion usually makes very interesting and participative programs that prevent monotony. However, people who are just learning the subject must then make a choice as whether to use Tom's, Dick's or Harry's method. Although the club has had an interesting program some members go away confused. After such a meeting with a panel that discussed fertilization a member wanted to know what she should do and

who presented the best method or "brands." Of course I told her what I used which was entirely different. It all boils down to whom do you trust? Or who do you think is the most knowledgeable person on the subject.

The question in the paragraph above caused me to do a little research on fertilizing camellias. I took my stacks of yearbooks and journals from different camellia groups, went through each and book-marked all articles I could find on fertilization. I then took my note cards to jot down the resource, author, and pertinent information on when to fertilize and what to use. There was very little consistency. Most months in a year and just about every fertilizer brand in existence and discontinued are mentioned in one article or another. I do wish I had put this information together and written it up but I wasn't an editor at that time. (Perhaps a reader would write us an article on the different fertilizing programs growers use.)

I didn't find a truly organic program. I used about the nearest thing to one a few years ago and had great success on the show circuit. I used ground fish meal twice, alfalfa meal once,

and kelp once. (After the fish meal got wet (ground menhaden that I special ordered), I felt like using on my nose the clothespins I use to pin leaves back. Luckily, my house is far enough from the neighbors to keep them from complaining. Really, each year, I usually do something different. This year, I'm relying mostly on time release fertilizers. To make a long story short, it's impossible to summarize what we all do to come up with a best way.

It all boils down to getting to know your camellia plants up close and personal. Treat each one as an individual. Give each plant the time it needs. The very day you notice something wrong take care of it less you forget. If you notice scale, remove the leaves or spot spray. Learn disease symptoms and at the first symptom start known treatments that you can find in publications.

Remember, if you make your own soil with semi-sterile things like sand, bark, and peat that you get good texture and drainage but you must add the nutrients. Not only are the major nutrients (especially nitrogen) necessary but minor elements (trace elements) are extremely important in growing

camellias. Should you grow camellias in containers as I do, the only way the plant can get what it needs is for you to add it either through the soil or the foliage by spraying. Most of us guess at what to add. Actually, your agricultural extension group can tell you exactly what to add when you go through the effort of getting a soil analysis. To grow that "perfect bloom" the plant must also be in the correct environment. I sincerely believe that the more time one gives to working with plants or another self-satisfying hobby, the more time one will have on earth to enjoy them.

We know how beautiful camellia shrubs alone can be. Magnificent flowers—even the small, single seedlings are an added bonus. We must learn more about helping them be the best they can be. We learn through our friends, organizations, periodicals, personal experiences. Then, to keep from re-inventing the wheel we must share any new knowledge we learn with others. We must learn, specially, the best time to do each thing the plant wants to do at the time it wants to do it or at least change the environment

to make the plant "think" it's time to do its "thing." For example, we can use heat to encourage root growth at any time of year scions are mature enough to root—something a camellia tends to do naturally in July and August. We can use giberellic acid to cause buds to open earlier than normal to extend our blooming season.

There are other things about our hobby we can all learn by sharing. Write about what you do even if you think it is not new. We might detect something a little different. Join the camellia groups and attend the functions. Share your ideas and seek ideas from others who share this soul-satisfying hobby. Grow the blooms that will win in show competition or gifts of which will make your neighbors and friends happy. Get the same thrill of a win that an athlete might get after winning an Auburn-Alabama, Carolina-Clemson or Georgia-Florida football game. Above all, share knowledge at club and society meetings. When there is a panel discussion have the final speaker or president summarize and perhaps give a viewpoint on what s/he thinks is the best.

Using Camellias In The Landscape

Donna Denton

After reading so much about historical gardens in South Carolina when we moved to our new home, I was amazed that the previous owner of the property, who was consumed by history, did not have one single *Camellia japonica* on the property. There were five lonely but lovely *C. sasanqua*; however, they had not been given a place of prominence to suggest they were important to him.

Adopting a large, old garden is not the blessing it may first seem. We thought we were the most fortunate people in the world to have acquired this old landscape and had almost too many ideas about how to reclaim and refurbish it. How naïve! We were so overwhelmed that it took nearly two years just to start pruning.

When we moved here, I brought my one and only *C. sasanqua* Mine-No-Yuki, still in the pot, purchased at a program given by Richard Mims at Coker College in about 1999. Then, a stroke of good fortune launched us into the wonderful world of the larger genus of camellias. A fellow Master Gar-

dener and friend came for a visit to help us get started with a renovation of the gardens.

He made, what I thought then was, a radical suggestion. Use camellias throughout the landscape. He actually outlined a bold plan to use camellias both as specimen plantings and to supplement the landscape over the entire property. "You have plenty of space," he said, "all you need is water;" and proceeded to make the addition of water a requirement for helping us with the camellias. Well, I got the water in place and now the camellias have come.

One would think that, having 8 acres, acquiring over 150 camellias would pose no problem for sighting and planting them. I am a Master Gardener, right? I know that plugging them in the ground with no regard for soil preparation or design is a recipe for long term failure in many ways. My losses came about while trying to keep so many camellias alive until the sites were selected, gardens planned and ground prepared. One has to learn to be a "container camellia grower" to

keep these problems down.

These camellias have a home now. One that has been planned to meet the requirements of the plant and to add interest and meaning to our gardens. I like all things old or that have a special meaning or story about them. Thus, each of the several, separate camellia gardens in place now has a specific theme and a name.

For example, my landscape designer/mentor suggested that I not mix colors helter skelter. He mentioned that various sizes and/or growth habits would impact the eventual look of the garden. I took the *Camellia Nomenclature* book in hand and looked up each new camellia to note the color, form, size and habit of the plant so I could catalog it by trait to put together a cohesive garden of camellias.

One garden theme came to me actually while researching "old roses." It occurred to me that having a "collection" garden of "old camellias" would satisfy my interest in the old varieties and cultivars. I have compiled a list of camellias that date between 1822 (*Woodville Red*) and 1895 (*Rubescens Major*) of which I currently have only three or four. I have set aside a rather large potential

garden space for the older varieties.

Another garden is a *Betty Sheffield* garden. Research resulted in a list of seventeen forms of *Betty Sheffield* (I included *Elaine's Betty* and *Lucky Seven*). Planned but not in place yet, is a South Carolina camellia garden which will feature those camellias that were hybridized by South Carolinians in SC.

Then there is the "red" garden and a "white" garden where only camellias listed in the nomenclature book as displaying that color will qualify for planting in one of those gardens. An important note in the nomenclature book warns those of us just learning about camellias that color in camellia blooms may differ from the description depending on soil, culture and weather where the plant is grown. My hilltop location and soil may turn this into a "surprise garden."

Actually, I have two separate gardens called "surprise garden." They are a result of having several camellias which had either lost their name tag (where could they have put it?) or came to me without the benefit of having known their name. Many friends have given me anonymous seedlings or cut-

tings. They are all healthy and growing and will, even without names, add so much beauty to our landscape. As they mature and bloom some may be identified and moved for a better fit to a different garden. In the meantime, I hope to add to my camellia gardens with any and all gifts or mystery purchases.

I have started a garden of "my favorites;" however, I also started a garden of my mentor's favorites. The potentially huge problem here is that my mentor has almost as many favorites as there are camellia cultivars. I don't think he has ever seen a camellia he doesn't like. And, he is constantly hybridizing to produce new cultivars which could become his current new favorite.

Then, there is my greenhouse collection. Oh, yes, the camellia "bug" has taken me to the point of building a glasshouse, which I will use this year for plants grown in pots as a test to prove the axiom I have heard from several successful camellia growers who are prize winning exhibitors, i.e., grow outside in the summer and inside in the winter. Outside so far this year has been successful. I potted up about 40 plants using my best mix of pine bark fines and com-

post, and put them in a protected location with a consistent source of water. New growth is encouraging and I will put them in the glass house before the first frost.

Given that I am an active member of an active camellia society, I can count on all the advice and help I need from the experienced members of a group who truly enjoy teaching their secrets of success to new members like me. In fact, they seem to thrive on bringing us along to improve knowledge about growing and participation in exhibiting camellias.

Although, I am fixated on "collections" for my landscape, camellias are mostly used as specimen plants in a landscape. My goal is to have some criteria for a few (or a few dozen) specimen plants which will become the feature of small garden spaces or rooms around the property. Ideally for me, these plants will have some historical significance (as does the *Champney's Pink Rose* which comes from Charleston) or personal significance such as having come from the plant of a friend. It may seem silly but a story to tell about a plant has its own mystique and I cherish pass-a-long plants for that rea-

son. The *White By The Gate* outside my kitchen door is the very first *C. japonica* I owned. It was a housewarming gift from my camellia mentor. I would really like a bloom from this plant to be the first one to win in a show even if it means actually getting up the nerve to disbud and gib that plant.

Many reading this article have significant collections of camellias planted in large gardens with no other plant material to spoil the intent of that space, i.e., growing show quality camellias. I have seen some of them and, even when the flowers are not blooming, the foliage and shape of these shrubs are incredibly beautiful. These monoculture gardens are the envy of most camellia admirers and I hope eventually to have one of my own.

The necessity of having to incorporate a large number of ca-

mellias into an old landscape has shown the flexibility and benefit of also using them to enhance and augment an existing landscape. *Camellia* is a valuable, versatile and beautiful plant that seems to be experiencing a comeback in the market.

I encourage you and your local camellia groups to encourage all gardeners to include even one or two camellias in any landscape planning or design. Sharing rooted cuttings or air-layers with a friend or neighbor may result in another person having a life long love affair with camellias—another person to carry on the tradition.

Don't you think after reading this article that I have become another person that is really "hooked" on camellias? I'll soon be saying to all of you: "See you at the camellia shows."



ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Convention Invitation

(This letter was sent to members in early August)

Dear Members:

It is again convention time and we hope that you are already making your plans to attend. We will be meeting in Myrtle Beach on September 22 and 23 and our convention hotel is the Sandcastle at the Pavilion, 1802 North Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach. This is the same location we have used for a number of years. A block of rooms has been reserved there and the rate will be \$59.00 per night for oceanfront and \$53.00 per night for side-view. Those who will be arriving on Thursday will use the Group Block # 85002 and those who will be coming for Friday and Saturday nights only will use Group Block #84993. Rooms are set up under the name Camellia Society. After September 1, 2006, rooms will be subject to availability only. The telephone number is 843-448-7101.

The registration fee is \$70.00 per person for the full convention and \$35.00 for the daily rate. All activities will be at the Elks Club (except the barbecue on Friday night) and a Schedule of Events is enclosed for your information. Please complete and return your convention registration form to Bonnie Serpas at the earliest possible date so that we can get a count for the Elks Club and other service people.

We look forward to seeing you there and are hoping for another fun-filled weekend.

Sincerely,

Mildred Robertson,
Secretary

**Myrtle Beach, S. C.
September 22 & 23, 2006**

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 22

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2:00 PM | ACCS Board Meeting
Elks Club |
| 5:00 PM | Barbecue Supper
Poolside-Sandcastle
Food, Beer, Wine by ACCS
Desserts by Members
(Bring your best dessert) |

Saturday, September 23 All Events at Elks Club

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Screwdrivers, Bloody Marys |
| 9:45 AM | ACCS General Meeting
Auction (Buck & Bill Show)
Please bring plants, etc. for auction |
| 2:00-3:00 PM | Educational Program |
| 6:00 PM | Annual Banquet – Open Bar |
| 7:00 PM | Dinner followed by guest speaker
Guest Speaker – Bruce Williams
(<i>Down East Gardener</i>) |

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ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Membership Dues: 8-31-06 to 9-31-07

Single or Double \$12.50 \$ _____

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip : _____

Phone Number (with area code): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Registration and Fees for Convention

Full Conv.	_____	Number of Persons- each \$70	\$ _____
Friday Only	_____	Number of Persons – each \$35	\$ _____
Saturday Only	_____	Number of Persons – each \$35.00	\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Saturday Banquet – Please indicate your choice

Indicate Number of Dinners _____ Prime Rib _____ Seafood

Make check payable to ACCS and mail to:

Bonnie Serpas
229 Green Street
Santee, SC 29142

The Grafting Man

Janice Beatty

I truly grew up in a garden - complete with water features, prized plants and tours! My goodness, the tours! I can still hear my mother yelling, "Get the bloomers off the clothes line. Here comes a tour group." In those days, people didn't always ask if they could come by and there weren't any guided tours like we have now.

My father grew *Camellia japonica*. What an understatement! He would correct people who said they grew "japonicas." He'd bel- low that there was no such plant. "You grow *Camellias*." He had moved on to roses by the time gibbing started back in the 1930s and 40s. He grew camellias from seed in a hot house. The center piece on our dining room table was a lovely crystal bowl filled with those big, dark seeds.

Grafting was his specialty. Once, he grafted 23 scions on one plant - and they all "took." My father traveled the southeast with friends looking for new cultivars. He was an adjudicator with the American Camellia Society or the group that became the ACS. He had a system of lights rigged up so he could graft at night if week- ends weren't long enough. My

interests are general gardening but I still grow a few camellias.

My father grafted plants in some of the finest gardens in the state. Many times I went with him. While the garden owners respected his talent and the men- tion of payment would have been insulting, he was the grafting man and I was the grafting man's daughter. Rarely was I allowed to watch the delicate surgery of grafting so I played. Some of these homes had children and I'd play with them. Once I was taken to this wonderful room in a man- sion. The whole room was taken up with trains. Not being into trains (girl, you know), this was- n't my favorite thing and the young boy who lived there wasn't especially friendly. I remember asking about some of the oddities in the room and even experi- mented with some of "things" hanging about. Imagine my sur- prise, when a butler appeared ask- ing to be of service.

My mother's plant love was iris. She also worked tirelessly in the garden to keep it mowed, raked and neat. She always planted rye grass in the fall so green would be the first layer in the landscape all year long. The

angriest I ever saw her was when her precious landscaping was devoured by more camellias. My father destroyed the front yard by planting about twenty camellias - spaced nicely, of course. She was livid. The next year the front yard was restored to its former layout. That was one battle she won.

During World War II, people in the area were asked to take into their homes airman and pilots from the Army Air Force Base; especially the ones with families. My family became dear friends with several pilots and at one point we were of more service to them than just housing. A new color film was being developed to use in reconnaissance work. Our garden was used as an example of how the film might look. I still have some of those pictures tucked away in the original plain brown envelope with a mysterious black lining. There is little sister, Merri, less than a year old, playing with a hair brush to keep her still and Mother under an arbor I don't remember. The best pictures are those of individual blossoms on camellias.

Only three families have ever lived in my parents' house. My parents built it in 1936 or 1937. When my father sold the house in 1960, the people who bought it kept it until a few years ago. The newest occupants are proud owners! They have done work on the house and especially the garden.

My sisters and I went back a few year's ago to snoop. There were construction workers everywhere and they gave us permission to look around outside. The garden has been lovingly tended. Some of the oldest camellias still rule and look stately. *Dikagura*, *Professor Sargent*, *Pink Perfection*, *Mathotiana Rubra*, and a little girl's favorite, *Imura*. The basic outline of the landscape plan is there but the new owners have added plants and varieties developed after we moved.

The sisters still ride by the house on occasion and I love showing my friends where I grew up. How can you not be a gardener when your childhood memories are mostly about the glory of gardening.

Note: C.W. 'Rub' Metts (1906-1976) grew *Camellias* and four daughters on the Avenues in West Columbia. Other than the passion for gardening, his only other 'vice' was Gamecock football. In late August of 2006, his first great-grandchild wore his 100 year old Christening dress for her baptism. Given the time of year, camellias were not available to adorn the church.

Programs

Richard Mims

New members join our societies and clubs to learn more about camellias. Programs on under planting, birding, rare books, etc. may be squeezed in occasionally but programs on growing, fertilizing, pruning, grafting and propagation including air-layering are necessary each year. The Mid-Carolina Camellia society always schedules pruning and grafting for February. True, pruning is mostly done after bushes have completed blooming in March, yet Buck Mizzell can make a well-branched piece of under stock a perfectly pruned sample or model before Geary Serpas whacks it off as he demonstrates grafting. Needless to say, many in attendance let out a groan as if a decapitation murder has been committed each time he lops off a top for a cleft graft.

Usually a question comes up as to "what can be done with the limbs and top after it has been cut off for grafting?" Our patient answer is "come to the April meeting on air-layering and you will hear how you can remove the top to use as under stock for another future graft. In the win-

ter, the ground is too cold for rooting the scions unless bottom heat is provided. Rooting is done in July and August. (Many clubs treat rooting lightly because the work is done while clubs are on "summer vacation." Perhaps making a rooting bed should be the subject at the last meeting in spring, combined with the program on air layering or coupled with a gibbing program for early shows at the first meeting of the season.

At our meeting last February, Geary Serpas, the grafting expert, was telling and demonstrating matching the cambium layer (the green layer right under the bark of the scion) with the cambium layer in the under stock. My being a few years older than Geary and having poorer eyesight, I had to interject that older persons like me might have to graft with the sense of "feel" rather than "sight." I mentioned that because the bark width on the scion is close to the bark width on the under stock, I push in the center of the under stock and let the heel "kick out" enough to use my fingernail to barely hook

the bottom of the scion. In this way I know the cambium of the scion and under stock are very close and at least cross each other.

Well, Serpas proceeded to exaggerate my statement and stick the scion off to the left—then off to the right and let members know that the straighter the scion the better the looks of the growing bush. True...and Geary's grafting takes beat my 60%. BUT, that remark gave me an idea that I couldn't help but blurt out (because we have fun at our meetings and add our two cents worth any time we want—at least I do). My idea was as camellias grow and we top graft, we could lay the scions horizontal and make steps on the camellia trunk which we could step up on while pruning and picking instead of lugging around a stepladder. Well, my favorite mentor, Bill Supplee, Past President of the club interjected. Hey! That's your next article for the Journal. After some thought, I said, "Well, why not? Unless someone submits something better."

Really, last year three of my cleft graft scions died. When the slit in the under stock made for the graft was shaved with a

knife, the under stock was still green. Because camellia buds had swelled and were growing, scions to graft with were unavailable. I put the potted understock beside plants with low growing branches that could be pulled down into the slit in the understock. One of the three (a "Sawada's Dream" actually healed and grew. The end turned upward with only a slight bend (but not quite enough for a "step"). After it healed it was severed from the parent and the raw edge painted with Spin Out.

Now, back to programs—one of the best and most interesting programs is an unplanned question and answer—no panel. Let members tell their problems and others answer how they handled similar problems. Many times this is a good program after a show when those beautiful blooms have enticed new members to join. These new members have usually joined because perhaps they have purchased a place with old camellia growth or they have problems with camellias they have planted. This is an excellent time to find out why they joined and to begin helping them with their own personal camellia concerns. Seed planting and gibbing along with proper plant-

ing of camellias should be subjects in August or September. Why should our old members want to hear these things each year? Well, if they don't want to hear, they are needed to teach. Discussions with members sharing experiences makes for the most interesting and well-remembered programs a club can have. It seems that the more people are involved, the more interesting the program. I know this is true because the best sign of a good program is the numbers of members who stand around and talk after a meeting is over and don't seem to want to leave. I love to stay after meetings. This is a good way to build friendships.

Remember, timely programs or "things camellia wise" are necessary each month. Even if other programs are planned use about ten minutes to discuss camellias. Involve every member you can. Gear programs toward the fun of growing camellias whether or not one is involved in showing camellias.

Shows are wonderful to see the true beauty of the hundreds of varieties and to attract new members but shouldn't be the sole purpose of societies. We must cater to the person who just wants a few camellias in the

landscape as well as to the person who wants to grow dozens or hundreds. I am always amazed at the wealth of knowledge new people bring to a club. In the past several years about a half dozen Master Gardeners have joined Mid-Carolina Camellia Society. One can tell why they have that name. Not only are these Master Gardeners knowledgeable about most flowers and know what makes good, remembered programs, they are also hard workers.

I made one other "smart remark" during the grafting program when Geary mentioned using a multi-trunk camellia to grow several cultivars. I said Geary, you have solved the problem for camellia lovers who live in apartments and condominiums—multi camellia cultivars on each plant. Little did I know that it was not a smart remark and that Barbara Butler from Modesto, CA had already covered that subject in her article, "Apartment and Condominium Gardens." Perhaps Ms. Butler and ACS will give us permission for a reprint in the Journal. Many of our members are leaving homes and gardens to spend their last years without so much responsibility. Patio and container gardening may be

a way to continue a growing camellias hobby on a small scale at their new retirement homes. In summary, we want good programs. We want to educate new members. Let me know what program your club had that was particularly outstanding. Who are the "in" program presenters. Have you

asked your State Director of the American Camellia Society to visit and put on a program? What subjects other than on camellias do your members enjoy? If I get enough answers, I'll publish them with the name of your society. We can help each other with good, interesting, informative programs.



Auctioneer Extraordinaire
At the May Barbeque at Pete and Donna Denton's,
West Columbia, SC
(photo courtesy of the Thompson's)

**Pictures from the May 2006 Joint
Mid-Carolina Camellia Society/
Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Barbeque**
Photos courtesy of Warren and Cheryl Thompson













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