

Atlantic Coast Camellias

**JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA
SOCIETY**



A view of Donna Denton's hot house at the
May 2008 Mid Carolina Camellia Club Picnic
Hosting the ACCS Board Meeting
Picture by Warren Thompson

**ACCS Convention
Town & Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407
September 19-20, 2008**

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 19, 2008

2:00 pm	Board Meeting	Oak Room II Town & Country Inn
6:00 pm	BBQ and drinks	Main House on the Veranda Magnolia Plantation & Gardens 3550 Ashley River Road (the house will be open for guided tours, also)

Saturday, September 20, 2008

9:00—10:00am	Brunch Bloody Mary's & Screw Drivers	Carriage House at Magnolia Hosted by the Hastie Family
10:00 am	General Meeting with the Auction following	

Lunch On Your Own

1:30—3:30 pm	Novice Judging School	Oak Room I Town & Country Inn
2:00-4:00 pm	Educational Program	Salon A Town & Country Inn
6:00-7:00 pm	Open Bar	Carriage House at Magnolia
7:00-7:30 pm	Welcome & Board of Directors Report	
7:30 pm	Dinner followed by our Guest Speaker	

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Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

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President's Message

John Newsome

As I write this message, my last one as President, plans for the Convention in Charleston, September 19th and 20th, are all in order. Magnolia Plantation and Gardens will be hosting us for activities, except for the Novice Judging School on Friday at the hotel, and the educational program on Saturday also at our hotel, The Town and Country Inn. The Friday night BBQ will be on the verandah at the Main House and the House will be open for guided tours. On Saturday morning at 10 a.m. the general meeting will be held at Magnolia in the 1804 Carriage House at 9 a.m. before the meeting, the Hastie family will host us for Bloody Mary's and pick up Brunch. Lunch is on your own. The educational program will begin at 2 p.m. in Salon A at The Town and Country Inn. Beginning at 6 p.m. we will reconvene at the 1804 Carriage House for cocktails followed by the banquet and guest speaker. Please make plans now to attend this meeting and enjoy this historic Plantation and Charleston.

Please bring items for the auction on Saturday and a dessert for the Friday night BBQ.

This summer has been brutal with record heat and drought. In Atlanta we are still on water restrictions and Lake Lanier, Atlanta's water source is at a record low of 16 feet. The thunderstorms seem to go south of us. We are losing many large trees and shrubs and there seems to be no end in sight.

I would like to close with a very special thanks to the Officers and the Board for their support during my two-year term. Saturday night I will turn the gavel over to Glenn Capps.

I am bringing a new member to this Convention and I hope you will also. See you in Charleston.

John

Editor's Column

Richard Mims

Andrea Michaux bought a plantation in Charleston at which he propagated and cultivated plants collected for the French Government between 1786 and 1796. During this decade, Michaux introduced the Camellia Japonica into America in Charleston, SC. Some camellias planted in that decade are still alive and growing in Charleston. (1)

(1) "The First Camellia Show" by V. W. J. Campbell, M.D. in American Camellia Society Convention Program, 1962.

Magnolia Gardens where the ACCS Convention will be held has many of the varieties named prior to 1800. Presently Magnolia Gardens is promoting the growing of these old varieties by contributing an award to clubs which sponsor a class for the best of a variety introduced prior to 1800. Clubs may apply for this award through Miles Beach who works at Magnolia Gardens. For those of you who may not know, Tom Johnson, former Horticulturist for Massee Lane Gardens, American Camellia

Society is now Horticulturist at Magnolia Gardens. Our loss of this excellent Horticulturist is Magnolia Gardens gain.

In the 1962 American Camellia Society Convention Program, Julia S. Frampton wrote an article titled Charleston "Firsts" in Camellias, along with the fact that camellia culture in the United States began in Charleston, she talks about the "rewards" from those original plants as being in the form of those new cultivars sprouting from seeds which dropped under those old plants. She mentioned that "World famous Magnolia Gardens," the largest of local gardens and one of the original sites of camellia plantings, has produced and registered the largest numbers of seedlings—all with characteristics superior to older established varieties.

A few Magnolia Gardens introductions are: *Mrs. Charles Cobb, Robert E. Lee, Surprise, Debutante, La Boheme, White Knight, Elizabeth Maybank, Lady of the Lake, Duke of Burgundy, Mrs. Freeman Weiss, Rosa Mundi, Mag-*

nolia Queen, Lily Langtry, Dearie Mealing, Carolina Mikell, Lady Charlotte, Northern Light, Mlle. Marguerite Calusaut, Wondrous Conflagration, Elizabeth Arden, Tiara, Tina Gaillard, Marion Mitchell, Elizabeth Bordman, Louise Weick, Black Prince, White Hope, Duchess of Windsor, Coquette, Eleanor McCrady, and Mildred Elliman. Jessie Katz, one of Magnolia's best is a sport of Troubadour.

Some varieties that first appeared at Magnolia and were perhaps originated there are *Alba Superba, Catherine Cathcart, Rv. John Bennett, Lady Mary Cromartie, Ella Drayton, Pixie, Eleanor Hagood, Captain Martin's Favorite, Prof. C. S. Sargeant, Rev. John G. Drayton, and Duchess of Southerland.* (2)

(2) "Charleston "Firsts" In Camellias" by Julia S. Frampton



The youngest visitors at the May Board meeting (.from left to right):
 Skye (daughter of Mary Kay Hall,
 granddaughter of Richard and Katherine Mims),
 Lily Grace (granddaughter of Pete and Donna Denton),
 and Michaela (a friend of Skye's)

Join NOW!

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

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

We are a society that 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 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 January, May, and September. 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 9/1/08-8/31/09 Single or Double \$12.50

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number (include Area Code): _____

E-Mail: _____

Directions to The Town and Country Inn & Conference Center

From I-95 North/I-95 South or from I-26

- Take I-26 East to Charleston.
- Take Exit 212-B which will exit onto I-526 West towards Savannah.
- Follow I-526 West for approximately 11 miles to the stoplight. Go on to 2nd stoplight (I-526 will end at this light and junctions with US 17).
- Make a left at this light onto Savannah Highway (US 17).
- Hotel is within 1/4 mile on the left-hand side of the road.

Traveling South on US Highway 17 From Georgetown, SC area

- Follow US Highway 17 South through Mt. Pleasant and over the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge (over the Cooper River) into downtown Charleston.
- Continue following US Highway 17 southbound for approximately 2 miles and over the Ashley River Bridge.
- Stay in the middle lanes on the Ashley River Bridge.
- At the end of the bridge, the road will fork. Stay on US Highway 17 southbound.
- The hotel is 3 miles straight down US Highway 17 on the right-hand side.

Traveling North on US Highway 17 From Savannah, GA area

- Follow US Highway 17 northbound to Charleston.
- As you enter Charleston area, go under the first large overpass where I-526 junctions with US Highway 17.
- The hotel is just beyond this intersection within 1/4 mile on the left-hand side of the road.

From Charleston International Airport

- As you exit the airport area, you will be on International Boulevard.
- Take I-526 West towards Savannah.
- Follow I-526 westbound for approximately 8 miles to the stoplight. Go on to 2nd stoplight (I-526 will end at this light and junctions with US 17).
- Make a left at this light onto Savannah Highway (US 17).
- Hotel is within 1/4 mile on the left-hand side of the road.



Planting Camellias

By Richard Mims

As we go about our daily lives & travel around our cities, we notice beautiful, colorful plantings of annuals around subdivision entrances, professional buildings & on city streets & avenues. I see the beauty but I also see the back breaking work involved in replanting literally hundreds of plants each year. Most large plantings are done by paid labor. When we do this at home, it is usually on a smaller scale although just as beautiful & colorful.

What I prefer are bushes & perennials...landscaping items which last for years without replacement. It is difficult for me to think about a landscape which doesn't include camellias. Although bushy, low-growing camellias are sometimes used in foundations, unless judiciously pruned they eventually become too large. Pyramidal types, however, which are kept about 2/3 the height to the eaves of the structure are magnificent the year-round & elegant during blooming season.

Camellias are also great for planting in groups around the perimeter of the sides & back yards. Planted closely, camellias screen off unsightly views which unfortunately are visible from many of our yards. Camellias also go well planted in "naturalized" areas covered with straw, bark or other mulch without grass that requires mowing.

To start your camellia garden, be careful with each plant. Treat each plant as if it's the only one you have & you will be rewarded for decades with its beauty.

Camellias grow well in most of our areas which seldom experience cold weather below 18°. In temperatures below 18°, perhaps the new cold-hardy hybrids would grow best. Just about anywhere winter temperatures linger above 26° for a week or two beautiful blooms open for our enjoyment.

Camellias grow best in 50% or more shade. I use 50% shade cloth on my

greenhouses & still have some burned leaves.

Plants with eastern & southern exposure receive more damage in winter than those with a northern or western exposure. It seems that ice coatings from dew or freezing rain magnify the sun's rays & damage camellia leaves. The soil must be well drained & porous enough for water to quickly pass through taking oxygen down to the plants' roots. On low land camellias should be planted on a berm or mound prepared with the following mixture:

- Soil with a slightly acid pH around 6.5 is best.
- A soil test is very useful in finding what is needed to bring your mixed soil to the proper pH.
- Organic matter in the form of pine bark, compost, sawdust of whatever is available in your area should make up half of the soil used around camellia roots.
- Always mix in a full part of coarse sand. Wet sand gives up moisture to plants more readily than does bark, peat, or other humus.

•

Plant camellias starting when autumn leaves begin to fall through spring. Try to finish up before the strong, drying winds of March.

Space plants six to ten feet apart to allow for growth & air circulation. Plant camellias where you need a large bush or small tree.

Always plant roots shallow. If your plant is container-grown, only plant bottom half at ground level. If your plant is balled & burlapped or moved from another location, plant it so that the plant after settling will still have roots at or above ground level. Remember, if your soil holds too much moisture, you must plant on a berm or mound with roots above ground.

When a camellia is planted, rub your fingers over the top of the root ball to be certain no soil is on them. Even one inch of soil on top of the roots may keep the shrub from flourishing. A good mulch placed on the top of the roots will keep them from drying out.

Add One Foot to Your Grafts

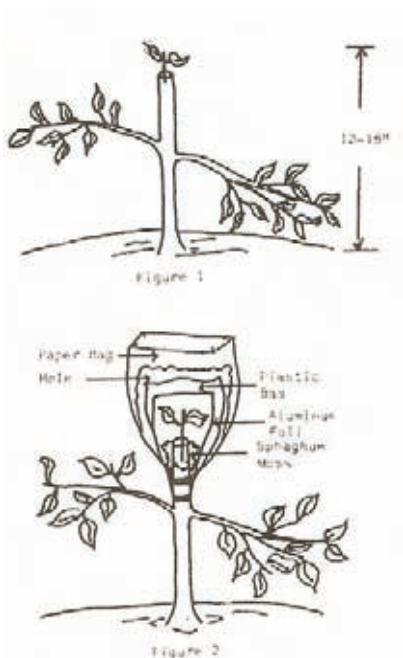
By J. U. Smith, Columbia, SC

Reprint from *Carolina Camellias*, Vol XXIV, No. 1, Winter
1972, pgs. 18-19

The conventional way of grafting may be the best but I derive a great deal of pleasure from experimenting with my plants. In so doing I believe some worthwhile results have been shown. One of the few improvements noted, a method of grafting which has proven most satisfactory, is described as follows:

Figure 1 shows the under stock cut approximately one foot above ground. The distance may vary depending upon the suitability of the trunk or branches for grafting and the location of one or two lateral branches which may be left on the under stock. These branches should be so located as to not hamper your grafting procedure.

Figure 1 also shows the completion of the cleft graft. Following completion of this step I normally put a coating of Flintcoat (static asphalt) (Ed: Spin Out) over the union and cleft. This is left 10 to 30 minutes while preparing another graft or two in order that



it will harden to some extent and will make the next step less hazardous. It serves to stabilize the scion and lessen the danger of knocking it out. (Ed. A rubber band may be tied around union tightly to hold scion in place). Grafting wax or any similar viscous substance may be used or the graft can be completed without this and I believe your success will be just as good.

Figure II shows a cross section of the next three steps. To complete the graft, sphagnum moss which has been soaked at least 30 minutes, a square of aluminum foil, a clear plastic bag the size used for packing broilers in freezer, a 16 lb. brown paper bag and some cotton wrapping twine will be needed. As shown by Figure II a good hand full of the wet moss (squeeze out the excess water) is held up around the stock by the foil shaped as a funnel. It should be tied tightly at bottom end and loosely around bulk of moss to keep moss from falling out. The purpose of the wet moss is to provide humidity in the plastic bag. The corners of the aluminum foil are pulled up as much as possible to keep plastic bag from resting on scion. (Ed: The modern way is to make a wire frame shaped like a light bulb to hold up the plastic bag.) The plastic bag is then pulled down over the scion, foil and moss and the mouth of it (Ed: and the wire frame) tied securely below the moss. Try to have sufficient air in the bag to hold it erect when tied. Test for holes before using it.

It is not necessary to use additional support to hold the bag up—the foil helps in this respect and no serious damage is done if it should collapse on the scion. Two holes are then torn in the fold of the paper bag near the bottom. It is then inverted over the plastic bag and in so doing insert the fingers through the holes on either side or catch the corners of the plastic bag to keep them pulled up as the paper bag is pulled down. The mouth of the paper bag is then tied securely below the plastic bag. This completes the procedure but if you like you can put a cane or stake up beside the paper bag and tie the corner of the bag to it so as to prevent wind or rain damage. From time to time in checking your grafts you can straighten up the bags, and you probably will need to untie them once or twice to let out water which collects in the plastic bag, weighting it down.

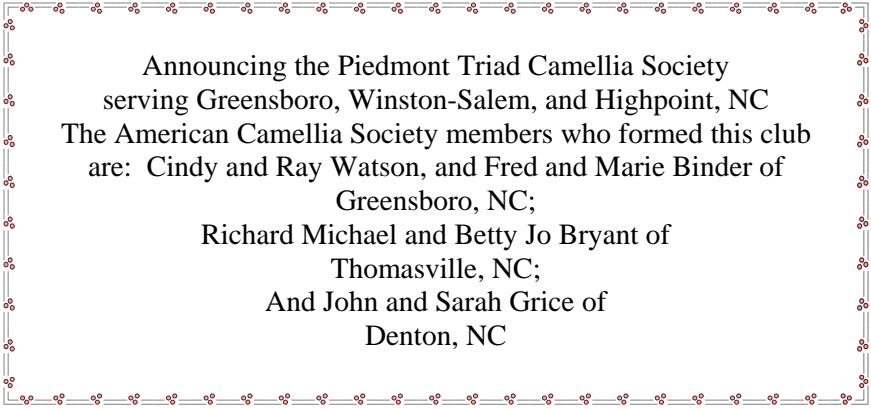
When your graft has put on two or three leaves remove the bags but put the paper bag back for a week or ten days and then remove it during cloudy weather or in late afternoon. No further shading

should be necessary unless graft is in full sun or weather is extremely hot.

There's more to the subject than meets the eye. The added height gained by the high level grafting is not the desired feature. However, there are advantages in that there is less danger of the young graft being broken off and less danger of damage from insects coming out of the ground. The primary advantage is gained in keeping the roots of the stock alive by leaving a branch or two intact to take off excess moisture and to service the normal function of the foliage. There is no shock and no loss of under stock. When a large plant is cut down completely for grafting a large portion of the feeder roots die. This is prevented by the above method, thereby giving greater grow-

ing possibilities for the graft. The maximum growth attained on one graft in this manner was 5' 3" the first season. Don't expect that much but you can expect considerably more than in other methods of grafting. The branches left on the stock may be air layered the first summer but if not they should be removed the following early spring, and the wounds painted over with static asphalt. The first year your graft may look awkward, but by the end of the second or third season it will shape up like a Christmas tree and will look like a 5-year graft.

Excess rain or drought during the spring months is not a problem in this type grafting. Controlled moisture exists in the plastic bag from the time the graft is completed until the bag is removed.



Announcing the Piedmont Triad Camellia Society
serving Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Highpoint, NC
The American Camellia Society members who formed this club
are: Cindy and Ray Watson, and Fred and Marie Binder of
Greensboro, NC;
Richard Michael and Betty Jo Bryant of
Thomasville, NC;
And John and Sarah Grice of
Denton, NC

**Scenes from the
ACCS Board Meeting
at the May Picnic
Hosted by Mid-Carolina Camellia Society**
Pictures provided by Warren Thompson and Mary Kay Hall











ACS Awards for Membership – We need YOUR help

ACS membership trend over the years is the following

1961: 7,550

1970: 6,250

1980: 4,800

1990: 2,961

2004: 2,750

2007: 2,058

Each of us gets ONE new member = 4, 116 members – Double membership!

Each of us gets TWO new members = 6, 174 members – Triple membership!

Each show gets 10 new members = 500 new members

(Think Christmas, birthday, anniversary, mother's/father's day, secretary's day, boss's day, or any day.)

Club Awards

- * Most ACS members signed up at a show
- * Most ACS members during a year (Aug-Aug)
- * Most ACS members under 18
- * Highest % of club members who are ACS members
- * Best ACS table - from photo - 1st, 2nd, 3rd place
- * Photo contest-winners on 2009 calendar (download – web site)
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each category
 - Single bloom
 - Multiple blooms
 - Camellias in the landscape
 - Camellias and children
 - Overall winner on calendar cover

Show Dates

Fall/Early Winter 2008/09

October 2008

- October 11-12 PERRY, GA
Middle Georgia Camellia Society
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Warren Thompson (478) 825-2559
cwthompson@valleycabletv.com
- October 17 COLUMBIA, SC
Mid-Carolina Camellia Society
South Carolina State Fair
Buck & Tyler Mizzell
For information call Richard Mims at
(803) 438-9741
rkmimsis@bellsouth.net
- October 25 JACKSONVILLE, NC
Please support this new show (no awards)
Call Jim VanGorder for details.
(910) 455-9451

November 2008

- November 1 NORFOLK, VA
Virginia Camellia Society Fall Camellia
Show and Plant Sale
Baker Hall, Norfolk Botanical Garden
6700 Azalea Garden Road
Doug & Sally Simon (757) 625-0374
simon2ofus@aol.com

- November 1-2 MURRELLS INLET, SC
 Grand Strand Camellia Society
 Murrells Inlet Presbyterian Church
 Mack McKinnon (843) 651-3363,
 cell (843) 995-1256
annmckinnon@msn.com
- November 8 FORT WALTON BEACH, FL
 Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society
 Westwood Retirement Resort
 Martin Harwood (850) 477-3625
martinjharwood@cox.net
- November 8-9 FORT VALLEY, GA
 Middle Georgia Camellia Society
 Massee Lane Gardens
 Billy Davidson (478) 825-4038
billybarb80@georgiaspeed.net

December 2008

- December 6 ALBANY, GA
 Albany Men's Garden Club
 Albany Mall
 Stuart Watson (229) 432-6146
- December 6 JACKSONVILLE, FL
 Camellia Society of North Florida
 Mandarin Garden Club
 Bill Falta (904) 262-7625
billfalta@comcast.net
- December 13 VALDOSTA, GA
 Valdosta Camellia Society
 Lowdnes County Conference Center
 Mark Crawford (229) 242-2965
craw142@bellsouth.net

- December 13-14 PENSACOLA, FL
 Pensacola Camellia Club
 12/13-12/14/2008
 The Wright Place
 (1st United Methodist Church)
 Bill Lyford (850) 434-6632
williamtlyford@bellsouth.net
- January 2009**
- January 1 COTTAGEVILLE, SC
 Coastal Carolina Camellia Society
 Cottageville Elementary School
 Miles Beach (843) 345-3453
milesbeach@comcast.net
- January 10 METAIRIE, LA
 Camellia Club of New Orleans
 V.F.W. Hall
 Max Mizell (504) 833-3970
mmizell1@cox.net
- January 10-11 GAINSVILLE, FL
 Gainesville Camellia Society
 Oaks Mall
 Jerry Hogsette (352) 871-5325
jhogsett@bellsouth.net
- January 10-11 TALLAHASSEE, FL
 Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee
 Doyle Connor Administration Building
 Stewart Tomlinson (850) 402-9201
stomlins@usgs.gov
- January 17-18 AIKEN, SC
 Aiken Camellia Society
 Aiken Mall
 Jim Dickson & Lee Poe (803) 279-9451

- January 17-18 ORLANDO, FL
Camellia Society of Central Florida
Harry P. Leu Gardens
Ben George (386) 734-3134
bdgeorge@aol.com
- January 24 CHARLESTON, SC
Coastal Carolina Camellia Society
Citadel Mall
Miles Beach (843) 345-3453
milesbeach@comcast.net
- January 24 THOMASVILLE, GA
Thomasville Garden Club, Inc.
Thomasville Garden Center
Pat Johnson (229) 377-5548
- January 24-25 OCALA, FL
Ocala Camellia Society
Pioneer Garden Club
Patrick Andrews (352) 595-3365
patrickandrews@att.net
- January 31 LAKELAND, FL
Lakeland Camellia Society
North Lakeland Presbyterian Church
John Shirah (863) 858-3789
nursery@aol.com

Recipe Corner

By Mary Kay Hall

A favorite dessert mom has always loved to make for the judges parties for the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society is what we have always called “Glorified Brownies.” I have grown up having these as long as I can remember. Hope you enjoy this recipe!

1 c sugar	1 stick softened butter
3 T cocoa	2 eggs
3/4 c flour	1 c nuts (pecans)
1/3 t salt	

Cream sugar and butter. Add eggs. Sift Flour, cocoa, and salt. Then add dry ingredients into the creamed mixture.

Bake in 13x9x2 greased pant for 20 minutes at 400°

Slice 27 marshmallows in half while brownies are baking.

Place the halved marshmallows in rows on the baked brownies while still warm (or even while still hot for gooier marshmallows!). Then let cool.

Icing:	1/4 c softened butter	3 T cocoa
	2 c confectioners sugar	3 T cream

Mix ingredients together then spread over marshmallows. Sometimes helps to microwave briefly (30-40 seconds at most) to warm the mixture to help with spreading.

Mary Kay’s note: Dad says he always lets the butter and eggs get to room temperature when making cakes. Also, I always like to make a double of this recipe for thicker brownies and, of course, more icing! That means cooking time increases to about 25-35 minutes — it varies sometimes so I have to keep an eye on it in the oven!



The view from Pete and Donna Denton's Kitchen Door