



*Atlantic Coast
Camellias*

**Journal of the
Atlantic Coast
Camellia Society**

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No. 3



Hold The Date!
Atlantic Coast Camellia
Society Convention
September 19-20, 2014
Litchfield-By-The-Sea

Go to <http://atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org>
Fill out and print the registration form.

Registration is by check only and must be received
by September 12, 2014.

There are no refunds after September 12, 2014.
Send the registration form and check to:

Bonnie Serpas, Treasurer
Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
229 Green Street
Santee, SC 29142
(803) 854-3171

If you have a significant item you would
be willing to donate for the raffle, please
contact Bonnie Serpas.

Cover Photo: Last day of International Camellia Congress -
camellia exhibit in Santiago, Spain area.
Photo provided by John & Dinh Swanson

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Showing Camellias the
Portuguese way.

Photo by
John & Dinh Swanson

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C.J. Baby Doll at Vigo, Spain show. Photo by John & Dinh Swanson

Dear Friends,

Everyone has heard the expression “Time flies when you are having fun!” Well that is exactly what has happened during the last two years at ACCS-- to be sure this is probably the most friendly organization that anyone could hope to belong.



All you have to do is surround yourself with people who are smarter than you are and everything will fall into place at the right time with the right precision. But as another saying goes, “You ain't seen nothing yet!” ACCS is increasing in numbers as well as enthusiasm. The word slipped out quite a while back that these folks love their camellias and they love their camellia friends, too ...and... That is what Atlantic Coast Camellia Society is about! Without exception we all look forward to Litchfield because we know that is our time of renewal—not to mention a time to kick off the next camellia season with great guest speakers on educational topics.

Thank you for your support of attendance and friendship which has brought us along thus far. I am confident that the officers and support group in place will carry ACCS at a high standard for years to come. The future of ACCS looks great.

Jim Dickson

**Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
Convention
September 19-20, 2014**

**Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort
US Route 17
14276 Ocean Highway
Litchfield Beach, South Carolina 29585**



The Beach House at Litchfield
Photo by: Mary Kay Hall

PLEASE NOTE:

While it is too late to receive the ACCS discount, there may still be vacancies at the Resort and they do have AAA and AARP discounts available which may be close to if not the same as the Convention discount.

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Fall 2014 Convention Schedule

Friday, September 19, 2014

10:30 — Noon	ACCS Board Meeting	Alston Room
1:30 — 4:00	On your own	
5:00 — 8:00	Wecome Party & Bar-B-Que Dinner (6:00 pm)	Beach ClubHouse

Saturday, September 20, 2014

7:00—9:00	Breakfast on your own	
9:00—10:00	Bloody Mary's, Screwdrivers and Coffee Bar	Tara Ballroom Patio
10:00—12:30	General Meeting with Auction following	Tara Ballroom
12:30—2:30	Lunch on your own	
2:30—3:30	Education Program Randolph Maphis—"TBA"	Resort Theater
2:00—4:00	Novice Judges' & Judges' Re-accreditation Sumposium	Alston Room
3:30—4:30	Education Program Brenda Litchfield—"TBA"	Resort Theater
6:00—7:00	Refreshments/Open Bar	Tara Ballroom/Patio
7:00—9:00	Dinner & Guest Speaker Brenda Litchfield—"TBA"	Tara Ball Room

2014 International Camellia Congress

By John & Dinh Swanson



The moon shining brightly on the Opening Ceremony of the International Camellia Congress.

The International Camellia Congress was held in Pontevedra, Spain on March 6-22, 2014. Pre-Congress tour was based in Porto, Portugal, and Post-Congress tour was in NW Spain ending in Santiago de Compostela.

Over 250 persons from at least 15 countries participated in the Congress technical sessions. Large delegations were from the USA, Australia, China, and the UK. The ACCS was represented by Miles and Brenda Beach, Howard and Mary Rhodes, Ron and Elizabeth Wolfe, and John and Dinh Swanson. Ask these ACCS members to tell you more of their experiences on the trip. This report is just a short overview.

In Portugal, we were part of about 100 ICS members that visited many beautiful private estates, castles, and public gardens, all exhibiting abundant camellia specimens. We saw camellias in 10 foot tall hedges; camellias shaped in various topiary arrangements; in mazes; and many, many large old camellia trees and in both countries, streets were lined with camellias. We saw many sizes, forms and colors of many camellia varieties, and fountains in many gardens were well-decorated with camellia blooms.

Shows attended in both countries were beautiful and quite different from shows in the United States. Camellias were displayed in large groups of single varieties on top of natural sod, making the colorful camellias appear in a natural setting. Exhibitors often commanded a whole table on which were



Dinh hugging a camellia tree.



displayed many different varieties. Flower towers or other arrangements were quite common. It was not clear how the camellias are judged, but there is a time-tested system that works for them. At some of the larger shows there were thousands of blooms in grand displays—a wonderful feast for the eyes.

We travelled in comfortable buses and saw Guimares Castle in Portugal (where the country of Portugal as it exists today had its origins), and the Sauto-maior Castle in Spain near Pontevedra with an ICS certified Garden of Excellence.

Music and dance—you are probably thinking Flamenco, or guitar or the like—not so. The music of (Galicia) Northwest Spain is based on a Celtic heritage, with bagpipes, drums and flutes as the norm. The music was somewhat different than some of us had expected.

Food and Wine—Porto, Portugal claims to be the origin of Port Wine. We toured a leading Port producer and sampled the product at the end of the tour. We saw huge oak containers in which the wine is aged. Port is a fortified wine with a higher alcohol content than regular wine and gradually changes color over the aging process going from purple to tawny brown or tan. We noticed that nearly every backyard or small farm had its own vineyard—probably for home consumption, rather than commercial purposes. In Spain the prominent wine is a white, sometimes named green, wine. They also have red wine and participants enjoyed sampling the local labels.



Augusto Leal de Gouveia Pinto

Seafood is very important to local diets, and is a major export industry. Estuaries, in which the waters flow back and forth with the tides and the richness of the waters, seems ideal for the production of shellfish—scallops, mussels, and clams. One of the tours

was on a boat among the platforms used to culture the shellfish. At the end of this tour was a sampling of the product, in this case, mussels. The trip received rave reviews.

Tapas—we experienced many kinds of small bite-size eats in the form of pastry filled with assorted meats and/or seafood delights. Samples were much enjoyed by the delegates. At one estate, fresh cooked octopus was served. I was skeptical to eat it but found it to be very tasty. The hospitality in both countries toward camellia guests was exceptional.



Nurseries, large and small, were visited. Spain is a big camellia supplier for the European market. Some varieties familiar to U.S. producers were noted, but others were unique to the region.

We saw estates and castles with thousands of camellias, many of which were very large and often over 200 years old. With labor prices increasing and the old ways not so affordable, many of the old estates, a number of which affiliated with the wine industry, have had to find new ways to stay solvent. Some now charge admission and others have formed public partnerships to ensure that they have the resources to maintain their gardens. Near the end of our post tour in Spain we visited the home of Eusebio Lopez Redondo, a young camellia enthusiast and colleague of Howard and Mary Rhodes and Randolph Maphis. Eusebio has a home camellia garden with outstanding plants and a passion for and knowledge of camellias that speaks well for the future of camellias in Spain, Galicia, and the Iberian Peninsula.

We saw many old camellia cultivar friends on the tables at the shows or in the gardens. For example: *Mathotiana*, *Captain Rawes*, *Hulyn Smith*, *Dr. Clifford Parks*, *Kumagai (Nagoya)*, *Nuccio's Bella Rosa V.*, *Grape*



Eusebio Lopez Redondo, Mary and Howard Rhodes

Soda, Baby Doll, White Nun, Lasca Beauty, Dahlohnega, Margaret Davis, Satsuma Kurenai, Maroon and Gold.

Some of my favorites there were ones with which I was unfamiliar-- *Augusto Leal de Gouviea Pinto, Angelina Vieira, Gloria do Porto, Cidage de Vigo, and Dr. Balthazar de Mello.*

The ICS Congress is held every two years. In February 2016, the next Congress will take place in Dali, China. For long-term planners, the 2018 Congress will be held in Nantes, France. Start polishing up your French now.

This was our first ICS Congress, but we recommend joining the ICS and start planing now to attend the 2016 Congress. You will find it interesting and that camellia lovers are international indeed and are great people to know.

Recent articles to expand your knowledge of the Congress are Florence Crowder's report recently published in *The Camellia Journal*, "Camellia Shows in Portugal and Spain" by Joe Holmes in the Summer Edition, *Gulf Coast Camellian*, and "Impressions of the Congress" by James J. Fitzpatrick in the recent Southern California Camellia Society *Camellia Review*, Vol. 75.

For more information on the ICS contact Ms. Florence Crowder at florence.crowder@cox.net or at 1149 Rockerham Rd., Denham Springs, LA 70726, Phone (225) 665-8179.



Above: Miles &
Brenda Beach



Above: Elizabeth & Ron Wolfe
Below: Dinh & John Swanson and
Mary and Howard Rhodes





Budha
(*Reticulata*)

Display from
final day of
tours.



Nice to see
Hulyn Smith in
Vigo, Spain







9
AQUILINO
ROSARIO GONZÁLEZ

CAMELLIA
JAPONICA ROSADA
ENTRAS CORES

SEGUNDO PREMIO
CAMELLIA
JAPONICA XASPEADA
#AHIEGADA



**Scenes from the May ACCS Board Meeting
at the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society Spring
Picnic at Pete and Donna Denton's home**
Photos provided by John & Dinh Swanson









Honey, I Joined A Camellia Society

By Darren Sheriff

There is talk in many different garden societies, not just the camellia society that I belong to, about the need to increase attendance and get new blood to join and get involved. I am sure there are many ways to do this. I thought maybe I would share my experience of how I got hooked into this wonderful camellia hobby. Many folks in the Charleston, SC area know that I think, eat, drink and even work horticulture. I work at a local nursery, am a Master Gardener, write articles for magazines, run a garden blog, and help out at the local fair identifying plants and flowers. The botanical garden I call a yard is a testament to a major interest in horticulture.

My nickname is “The Citrus Guy” because of my knowledge of and the number of citrus trees that I grow--currently 65 different varieties. I dabble in perennial and annual flowers, mostly because my wife likes them or they are good for attracting pollinators. My motto basically “was,” why bother growing it if you can’t eat it!? Tomatoes, cucumbers and all kinds of exotic fruits growing were enjoyed. Camellias were not even



Variegated Valencia Oranges
growing nicely in Charleston,
South Carolina

on my radar. I will even let you in on a little known secret about me, when I took the Master Gardener final exam we had plants to identify; I mixed up japonica and sasanqua. Yes, I got a 100 on the test only because there were some extra point questions--I completely blew it on the two camellia species. I knew they grew in Charleston, and were somewhat important; but hey! You couldn’t eat them.

About 5 or 6 years ago, it might have been longer (Time passed like a blur), I was approached by Tony and Christine Smith from the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society. They wanted to know if I would speak to the society on growing citrus. I jumped at the chance to tell this group, especially a bunch of “flower people,” about what I grow. I came with PowerPoint, handouts, and a few trees to show and give away as door prizes. I would teach these flower people it was terrible to waste all that



The view up “Camellia Alley.”

good growing space on things you can’t eat.

The night of my presentation I was ready! I started thinking, at least these folks that are willing to listen to “a cultivating citrus talk” know there is a little more to life than just growing flowers. Every person I met that night was SO NICE! “Hey,” I thought, “these folks aren’t so bad after

all!” I thought wrongly that they were all just a bunch of stick in the muds—high and mighty about their flowers. The society members served a wonderful spread of finger foods, asked very good questions, listened to what I had to say, and entertained me with a VERY pleasant evening!

I asked a few questions about their passion of camellia growing. You have NO IDEA what the heck happened after that! “What happened,” you ask? Well, I am currently first Vice President and Flower Show Chairman of the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society. I have joined the ACS, ACCS and the ICS. I have won the novice award and a local runner-up award at camellia shows and am now thinking about becoming a judge.

Currently, I grow 146 different cultivars of camellias, with an additional 59 different ones in my root propagation chamber, with more scions expected in the mail in July. I have even added a Camellia PowerPoint lecture to my repertoire and have presented it a dozen or more times.

What does all of this have to do with recruitment in a society? If you take nothing else away from this article, remember these tidbits. Expand your meeting topics. We all love to talk camellias, and we should talk about them often, but bring in other speakers for new subjects. You might



The view down “Camellia Alley.”

find a new side hobby—or, as in my case, bring new blood (the speaker) into the fold. Yes, as new people come in, grafting, seeds, insects,



In the foreground is a Republic of Texas Orange, behind that is an Ice Cream Banana and a Camellia sasanqua, *Pink Serenade*

and other camellia topics need to be discussed for new folks to learn. There are many old timers that are tired of hearing the same old, same old. Keep them interested by encouraging their help in presenting the programs. Lack of diverse programs could be a reason enrollment numbers are down.

I have read as many back issues of journals, magazines and yearbooks as I can find. I swear there is not one issue

that goes by that doesn't state camellia people are the nicest, most generous people around. Take it as gospel! I would not be in the position I am in now if it weren't for the generosity of SO MANY people, and you all know who you are.

Is your society getting that word out? Not only should clubs sponsor shows but also should participate in community projects, school programs, gift camellias for public plantings and think of other ways to show how giving we Camellians are! THESE ACTIONS will go a long way in increasing membership numbers.

I can probably never thank Tony and Christine enough for inviting me to speak that night. They opened up an entire new world of friendships, fun and competition that I might never have experienced otherwise. If each and every one of you found one person to do what they did for me, imagine what our numbers would look like? Don't be afraid to ask somebody to join, or suggest a program topic you think might be interesting,

For now, please excuse me; I think I hear my Key Lime (citrus) and *Marie Bracey* (camellia) arguing. You know they both require similar care. Many citrus disease remedies have been used on camellias including Florida Volck for scale.

(Editor - question) How have you found that growing camellias and citrus compare?

(Sheriff - answer) The nice thing about growing camellias and citrus at the same time is they actually have many similarities. Oh, I know what you are thinking...camellias prefer shade and citrus full sun. That

is true. But, if you have a large enough citrus tree, you can grow camellias under them. None of mine are big enough yet, but you get the idea.

What I was referring to in similarities are things like pests. The first one that comes to mind is the Citrus mealy bug, *Planococcus citri*. Citrus mealy bug populations are naturally regulated by parasitic fungi and predacious insects. Ladybugs, birds, and such are your biggest ally. If the infestation gets to be too large, insecticidal soap is your next safest method.

Many hard scales are common to both. Just to name a couple, Florida Red Scale, *Chrysomphalus aonidium* and Tea Scale, *Fiorinia theae*. I have even seen a case of Oyster Shell Scale, *Lepidosaphes ulmi*, on a friend's citrus. Scale infestations are more difficult to control when populations are heavy. You should take action and make spray applications when the first sign of scale is seen. Horticultural Oil sprays and Insecticidal Soaps will help control the scale if applied properly. Always follow label directions—this IS the LAW! Both of these products are considered a contact insecticide. For them to be effective, the plants must be thoroughly covered. Covering smothers the insect. Horticultural oils should only be applied during the Spring and Fall when the temperature is above 40 but less than 85 degrees. Spraying in the heat of the day may result in leaf burn.

And who can forget our old friend, the aphid. Same things as above apply, especially the insecticidal soap. Any of the above pests will cause a problem called sooty mold. Sooty molds are dark fungi that grow on honeydew excreted by sucking insects, like aphids and mealybugs. Although sooty molds do not infect plants, they can indirectly damage the plant by coating the leaves to the point that sunlight penetration is reduced or inhibited. Without adequate sunlight, the plant's ability to carry on photosynthesis is reduced, which may stunt plant growth.



A view DOWN Camellia Alley and at the end with the orange hummingbird feeder is a Thomasville Citrange. A type of sour orange.

When it can't produce food, it starves. Coated leaves may also prematurely die, causing leaf drop. Most plants will tolerate a small amount of coverage. Spray the plant with some horticultural oil and simply remove the mold with a spray of water or rub it off with your finger.

Another similarity between camellias and citrus is the soil pH. Both camellias and citrus prefer the 6-6.5 range. My Master Gardener side always reminds you to get your soil tested. And speaking of soil, they both enjoy a well-drained, loamy mix. I have experimented with a few different mixes and all of them have seemed to work. Pine bark fines, coarse sand, perlite, coarse peat moss and oak leaf mold have all proved to be excellent choices. I find there is no real "recipe." Ask people that live close to you, the differences in locations, even 3 miles away, can alter what you use.* Microclimates are everywhere. What works for me, might not work for you.

*Editor's note – The American Camellia Society recognizes these differences with these instructions to judges: from the *Rules & Regulations Governing Procedures & Judging of American Camellia Society Cooperative Shows* – "Variations in color and/or form are consistently caused by climatic or soil conditions peculiar to different localities. Unfamiliarity with growing conditions in a particular area should cause a judge to follow the experiences and advice of the other members of the judging team who are more familiar with local conditions and variations."

For all my gardening friends, Please check out my blog:

<http://www.thecitrusguy.blogspot.com/>

There is a new society coming to Charleston, come be a part of it:

<http://www.facebook.com/LowcountryFruitGrowersSociety>



Ciudad de Vigo
(Camellia Japonica)
At Vigo, Spain



Join NOW!

(Membership is a great gift for friends & 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 & ideas with Camellia specialists, provide information about shows & social events & join us at our annual meeting the third Saturday in September each year. Annual dues are \$15.00 per year for singles or couples. A membership entitles you to a journal published in January, May, & September. To join, send your check & personal information for receiving communications & journals to:

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

Membership Form

**ACCS Annual Dues, August 2014-July 2015,
Single or Double \$15.00**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number (include Area Code): _____

E-Mail: _____

