



*Atlantic
Coast Camellias*

The Journal of the
Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

Vol. LXVII

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No. 3

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

**Just a few more days to the deadline
(September 8, 2019) to register for the
2019 Atlantic Coast Camellia Convention!**

**Details are on the website at
<http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org>**

Registration fees:

Entire Convention	\$95
Friday, September 20	\$30
Saturday, September 21	\$65

ACCS Dues:

Individual or Family	\$15
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**Download the form from the website,
then fill out and print.
Registration is by check only and must be
received by September 8th.**

Send filled-out form and check to:

**Fred Jones, Treasurer
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2056 Dunn Road
Moultrie, GA 31768
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCS Officers	2
ACCS Board of Directors	3
President's Message	
How To Include Your Grandchildren In Your Hobby	4
Randolph Maphis	
You Can Count on County Line	10
John and Dinh Swanson	
Camellias of Victoria, British Columbia	16
Mark Crawford	
Photos from Spring Board Meeting	20
John and Dinh Swanson	



Show results are posted on the ACCS Website. Show dates for next year's season are updated as they are confirmed.

<http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org>



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President's Message

Randolph Maphis

How To Include Grandchildren In Your Hobby

Camellia growing and showing is near and dear to all of our members. The other day I asked myself the question of "When and how did most camellia growers get their start in the camellia passion". After considerable thought I remembered how I got started in gardening in the first place. When I was 8 or 9 years old my grandmother (Audrey Maphis) started me helping with the vegetable and flower gardening. She got me started by planting seeds and watching them emerge from the soil and make flowers or beans. As a result gardening has been near and dear to me ever since. Each year when the cold weather departs and anxiety overcomes me to begin planting a garden, precious moments spent with my grandmother come to mind. Shared moments talking about the dark red blossoms adorning the 'Professor Charles S. Sargent' which grew in her front yard. I just had to have a camellia in my front yard. That happened 51 years ago when a 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' entered the landscape in the front yard of our first home.



Three years ago my son asked me to include my grandchildren Brooke and Gabriel Maphis when our garden was started. I carefully prepared the soil with my tractor and a tiller.

After the rows were laid out Gabriel and Brooke placed the potato eyes upright in the trench made for them. Potatoes are planted in the middle of February in Tallahassee. After the potatoes were planted we had three rows that were unplanted. I then asked the kids, “What do you want to plant when we plant again the middle of March?” They wanted to plant green beans because their whole family loves them so much. I told them we also need to plant squash, cucumbers, eggplants, and tomatoes. Then they both asked to plant watermelons. Watermelons???

Watermelons have always been my biggest failure. But since they insisted, I agreed. My son, Scott laughed when I told him, and said, “you know you have never had any luck with watermelons.” I said, I know but, we are going to have watermelons this year, one way or another. I remembered the immortal words of Hulyn Smith when he talked about “Cheaters and Losers.” I certainly didn’t want to be a loser when it came to growing anything. When it was time to plant the rest of the garden the kids came and the rest of the vegetables and melons were planted. They got to drop the seed in the row, and help cover the seeds with their hands. This is the time that they noticed the potatoes that had just emerged from the soil. They were excited to see them. They had never noticed plants coming out of the soil before.



Over the next six weeks the kids would come in the front

door of the house and run through to the back door, and out to “their garden.” It was the most exciting time of their life. We made lots of potatoes, squash, beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes. They harvested their vegetables and took the extra to their dads store to sell to the customers. They made over \$100.00 that Saturday. These kids were surely hooked on gardening. They like making money too. But, they kept checking on those watermelons. There were lots of really lush vines, but not many watermelons. Watermelons take a lot longer to grow than regular garden vegetables. The kids got out of school and went on vacation for a week. When they returned, out to the garden they went to see their watermelons. When they saw several large watermelons they could not believe their eyes.

They got to take the watermelons home to show their mother. My son wanted to know how you could grow watermelons that their stems were not attached to the vine. I told him that these were a special kind of watermelon. He said they looked like the Publix variety. I told him don't ask any more questions. The next week Meredith and Graham Green (two more



grandkids) came from Virginia and got their first taste of gardening when they got to harvest some huge watermelons too. The watermelon harvesting was the best thing they got to do all summer. We finally did make a few smaller melons that the kids got to pick off the vine and take home. Even a blind hog can find an acorn once in a while.

Last year, Brooke's Girl Scout troop came to earn

their gardening badges. They planted potatoes and when the potatoes were dug, all 15 of them got to take about 10 pounds home. This was a family event that included the whole family. Hopefully I got the Girl Scouts hooked on gardening too. Brooke and Gabriel again planted all the regular garden vegetables, and then they got to sell the extra at their dad's store. Gabriel became a





real salesman. We made Publix watermelons again. The kids love to plant and harvest. Their gardening passion has only intensified this year.

This year Gabriel's Cub Scout Troop sold about \$2,000.00 in fruit from the fruit trees of Mark Crawford, Howard Rhodes, mine, and their other grandfather's (Judge Frank Sheffield) trees. The scouts got to pick most of

the fruit and their new troop got started on a sound financial basis. The Cub Scouts had never seen fruit on trees before. They loved picking the oranges, grapefruit and satsumas. They loved eating the satsumas even more than picking them. This was another event that the whole family was encouraged to participate in. When Cub Scouts sell popcorn to raise money they get to keep a small portion of the money for the troop. When they sell fruit bags they get to keep all the money. There is a lot more money in fruit than popcorn.

Four years ago a lawyer, Vince Locurto, his wife and son, from Brooklyn, New York moved in next door. (He sounds like he is from Brooklyn too.) Their son Tristen was four years old and we invited him to join Gabriel's Cub Scout den. He joined the Scouts and 2 years ago I gave the new Cub Scout two 15 gallon pots to plant tomatoes. The tomatoes did great. The next year Vince and I built two raised beds twelve foot long for potatoes, eggplants, beans, and several other vegetables. He had never planted anything in his life. Now his family is hooked on gardening. Last spring Vince and Tristen planted citrus and plum trees. They made several plums and about a dozen satsumas. Now I have a gardener from Brooklyn living next to me. This fall I plan on giving them a couple of camellia bushes. You never know, camellia growers from Brooklyn have to start somewhere.

Over the winter I made three raised beds for vegetables and camellias. Marilyn, my wife, said I spent way too much money on a



garden, but I reminded her that it was for Gabriel and Brooke. The beds were enclosed with wire to keep the deer and rabbits out. The kids got to plant and harvest vegetables again. Every time they visit it is “in the front door” and “out the back door” to harvest the fruits of their labor. By the way, they planted watermelons at their other grandfather’s (Judge Frank Sheffield) farm. I supplied the seeds and some plants. We didn’t grow any Publix watermelons this year.

If your grandchildren or great grandchildren do not live close you can always carry the garden to them in the form of 15 gallon pots filled with potting soil. This spring we loaded about 15 pots in the truck and carried them all the way to Oakton, Virginia which is just outside of Washington DC. Meredith Green, one of the first female Scouts, and her Cub Scout brother, Graham Green, got to plant tomatoes for their family to enjoy. Gabriel and Brooke Maphis loved growing tomatoes in pots this year too.



Scott, Jenny, and the kids just bought a new house. They already have several fruit trees in the new yard. They had to leave the fruit trees at their old house. This week I purchased 15 blueberry bushes and several citrus trees. What they need now is five or six camellia bushes because at this house they have some afternoon shade. I told Scott to make sure the kids got to help plant the camellias, blueberries, and citrus. They will get to help push the soil in the hole when the bushes are planted. He has plenty of room in the sun for some raised vegetable beds too.



These kids will have plenty of planting and harvesting in their future. When kids plant seeds themselves and harvest the fruits of their labor themselves they can see the value of their hard work. They develop a love for gardening. That way they have some “skin in the game.”

I believe that when kids start gardening young as I did, they will garden all their lives. Camellia gardening is



just a continuation of their love for the outdoors and growing things. In the enclosed garden photo, you can see that the 'Kumugai Nagoya' are growing really well. Brooke and Gabriel will help me graft next year. Hopefully they will see the value of growing those huge red and pink camellia blooms. Brooke loves to show people the camellia bloom named for her. She is going to love picking big blooms of 'Brooke Maphis' and 'Jenny Maphis' this next blooming season. Maybe she will have some blooms for the Tallahassee show in January, and then I will have her "hooked on camellias" for life.

I know that most of you have grandchildren. Are you including them in your hobby? Is there anything that they can help you do to cultivate their interest in camellias? They can pick and cut flowers for their dinner table. Can they plant a few flower or vegetable seeds in your flower bed? Tomatoes grow great in flower beds. Do they need a camellia bush in their yard? I am sure you get the point by this time.

When you read this message I'm hoping that the ACS Convention will happen without any weather difficulties. We certainly don't need another hurricane.



'Brooke Maphis'

You can Count on County Line

John and Dinh Swanson



Introduction -

County Line Nursery near Byron, GA was started in 1986 by Tommy and Brenda Alden and is now a major source of quality camellias for the South and Eastern U.S. In addition to camellias, Daphne Odora, Spreading Yew, Tea Olive, and Edgeworthia Chrysantha are also produced and marketed by County Line.

Background-

Tommy Alden grew up in Fort Valley, GA and recalls his early exposure to camellias was watching and helping his father, John Alden - an Entomologist, graft scions that came from Dave Strother's camellia collection at Masee Lane. While in high-school, Tommy began a Summer job of scouting cotton fields and test plots to check on insect populations. Off to college Tommy went and chose History as a major. The field activities continued during the summers and complemented his start as a History Teacher, since he had summers off from the classroom. It is important to note that Tommy not only got a solid education in college, but also made a positive impression on a bonny belle from Byron named Brenda. You will have to get the specifics from Tommy or Brenda, but the friendship that developed led to their marriage in 1970. During the years that followed, a daughter (Tracy) and a son (Travis) were born to the Aldens. Each of them now has a family of their own .

Tommy was recruited away from teaching to work initially with Security Chemical Company, and later S.C. Johnson Chemical Company for about 20 years dealing with the safe use of agricultural, lawn and garden chemicals. Those were the days

when the EPA was new and safe use of pesticides became essential. Tommy discovered early that specialists like engineers, scientists, and salesmen within the industry had trouble communicating with each other, but his communication skills from teaching, and interpersonal skills of working with agriculturalists enabled him to work effectively across disciplines.

In 1985 Tommy and Brenda bought 17 acres of land west of Byron and built their house in the following year. Also in 1986 the first greenhouse was built and County Line Nursery was established. It was planned to serve the nursery growers for Barberry, Holly, Daphne Odora and .Cephalotaxus.



To start off in the business they produced liners and Tommy's father, recently retired, helped guide operations. As the fledgling business began to grow, Tommy worked after hours and weekends in the nursery. A few years later, Brenda left her job at the regional trauma hospital and joined John in running the day to day operation of the nursery. By 1994 Tommy left his agro-chemical position and devoted his efforts to the nursery full time. At That point, Brenda returned to the hospital and worked until 2001, when their first grandchild was born. In the 30 plus years since it began, County Line has grown to over 40 greenhouses (most are 30' x 96') on 44 acres, a staff of four full time and two part-time local women. After a

couple years of part time work, Travis joined the business and now serves as President and Tommy the Owner with major responsibilities assigned to each and management decisions are jointly discussed and implemented.



Camellias grown at County Line are produced to hit the Fall and Winter markets, many of which go to camellia societies within the region to aid with their fund raising. Most plants are grown from rooted cuttings with a few grafted and are ready for market three years later. The ‘Ville de Nantes’ plants grow more slowly and take four years to reach market size. The bulk of the plants are sold within a 250 mile radius of the Nursery, including Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida as far South as Ocala.

Which plants to grow and market is decided from a mix of new varieties and older more traditional cultivars. Winning blooms from show reports and historical preferences also help guide which plants to grow. Currently County Line grows over 350 varieties of camellias. The greenhouse space is the limiting factor. Trends are for more yellow varieties, fragrant blooms, and the large flowering reticulatas. The reticulata ‘Frank Houser’ is currently the best seller.

Mentors-

From its inception in 1986 there have been many mentors offering guidance and providing helpful suggestions the fledgling nursery should take. Particularly helpful early on was John Alden, Tommy's father. Marvin Jernigan and Dr. Dan Nathan were also consistently helpful on providing growing advice, and Marvin provided over 40 camellias from his collection to help County Line get started. Walter Homeyer and Gene Phillips were also helpful and generous in sharing their skills and knowledge.



R. L. Wheeler was another Middle Georgia camellia breeder and nurseryman in North Macon, but that preceded the formation of County Line. Several camellia varieties that are still popular today originated at Wheeler's. The nursery still exists, and is run by Lynn, the grandson of R.L. but now focuses more on landscaping and not on growing large quantities of camellias. Recently Tommy got a call from Lynn asking if he had 3-gallon plants of 'R.L. Wheeler' and 'Frank Houser.' Tommy said he had them and 'R. L. Wheeler, Var.' also. County Line got an order for all three. Tommy and Travis pulled the plants and Carl, Lynn's son, pulled in with the truck to receive them. After loading the camellias and Carl was pulling out Tommy told Travis that "selling 'R.L. Wheeler' camellias to Wheeler's Nursery was like selling ice to Eskimos!" The times are a changing.

Tommy and Brenda are active members and have held leadership positions with local, regional and national camellia organizations. Both are judges that usually participate in 10-12 shows each season, with Tommy serving as Head Judge in two.

Tommy served for three terms as President of the Middle Georgia Camellia society, and is on the boards of the ACCS and the ACS. The Aldens have a large private collection of camellias and often have winners at the various shows in which they participate.

Tommy was instrumental in establishing hands-on camellia workshops held at Masee Lane in Late January for the past five years that trained over 120 camellia enthusiasts. The workshops are effective because they combine the essential elements of camellia culture in a fun manner, a big help in engaging and retaining members. *Tommy feels strongly that new members should be assigned a buddy or mentor to answer questions and help ensure that good cultural practices are used, thus keeping both plant and member losses to a minimum.*

When the Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society in Columbus, GA sought help to establish an extensive camellia garden at the Columbus Botanical Gardens Tommy played a key role in organizing and advising on-site selection and layout.

A special plant -

Among the thousands of camellia varieties, species, it's not unusual to have favorites. Tommy is searching for the "perfect" Ville de Nantes. He recognizes that "Perfect", like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. His search is to find a plant that roots well with roots strong enough to support the plant. It must also have the flower form that has upright petals (rabbit ears) surrounding the stamens, and the petals should be fimbriated. A final requirement is to have sufficient variegation. His preference is to have moire variegation. His collection of "Villes" is now at 20 plants acquired from different persons/locations. Each has some good characteristics, but none pass all the requirements consistently. His search continues. If you know of a "Perfect Ville", let Tommy know.

A special project -

"Conventional wisdom suggests that only camellia sasanquas will do well in full sun and that japonica and other species need to be grown under some shade."

That was the "challenge" Tommy faced when, in 2013, a mix of japonicas, hybrids, and reticulatas were planted in full sun on grounds East of the main building site of the American Camellia Society. It surprised many to learn that the results show that "in Middle Georgia" the plants are doing well as long as they receive timely irrigation, and nutrition and normal care and cultural practices. Further test plantings should be carried out in more locations which have different temperature, soil and other conditions. The program, under Tommy's guidance has opened up potential areas for camellias that previously had been ruled out.

Closing -

County Line Nursery stands out as a quality organization resulting from over 30 years of dedication and hard work by the Alden family. A gradual transition is underway to the next generation, also with an Alden name. Tommy is the Owner, and son Travis is now the President in charge of operations. It positions Tommy and Brenda to ease their way into retirement, and Travis to take full responsibility for the Nursery and maintaining the quality standards County Line is famous for. The Aldens are always proud to show visitors around the nursery so you can see the care given to the plants they produce. Visit and enjoy. You will be impressed.



Camellias of Victoria, British Columbia

By Mark Crawford

In April I took a family vacation to the Pacific Northwest to attend the tulip festival north of Seattle in the Skagit Valley. In 2018 friends went there and came back saying they saw more

tulips than when they went to Holland. My wife had never visited the Northwest and we decided then to plan for this trip. Our two children were able to accompany us along with my sister-in-law and her husband.



Seattle is an easy city to get around using public transportation so we decided not to rent a car. We used a tour service to visit the tulip farms that were in peak bloom on April 17th. The fields of tulips were spectacular along with incredible display gardens at two locations. We saw some daffodils but they were nearing the end of their bloom season.



The next day we caught the Clipper ferry to Victoria, BC to visit Butchart Gardens. We had planned to visit the gardens that day but it was raining and we were able to change our tickets to the following day. When we arrived in Victoria and checked into our hotel we just explored the city.

Visiting Butchart gardens is an incredible experience as I had previously visited twice but both times were in

September. April was a completely different experience. Daffodil and flowering cherries were in full bloom along with the early blooming tulips. *The real surprise were all the camellias in the garden in full bloom. Since I had only been there in September and didn't realize there were any camellias in the landscape. Camellias are scattered throughout the gardens but none of them are labeled. I recognized 'Taylor's Perfection' but most of the others were unfamiliar to me.*

After touring the garden, I visited the information center where all the blooming plants found in the garden that day are on display with names. Butchart is an exhibition garden and there are no names on the plants in the garden. They have all the camellias named



on their computer data base that you can look up. The accompanying photos do not have names so you can try camellia ID and give them your best guess.

I did not expect to see so many camellias in full bloom during this trip and feel this article might inspire you to make this trip in the future for a great tulip and camellia experience.

Unidentified Camellia



Tulip Fields

Unidentified Camellias

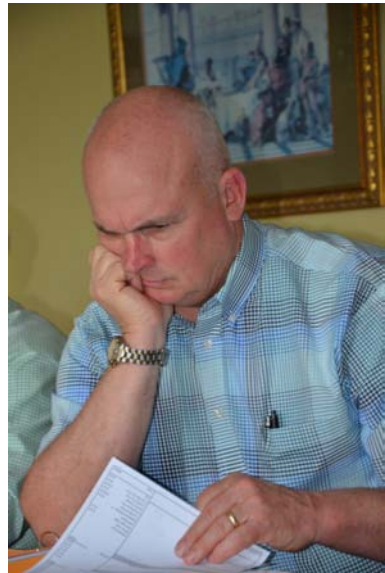


Photos from the Spring Board Meeting

Provided by John and Dinh Swanson



(left)
Randolph Maphis



(above)
Fred McKenna,



(left)
Carol Selph



Mary Kay Hall and Jim Dickson



Patrick Andrews



Mack McKinnon



Carol Selph, Patrick Andrews, and
Toni McKenna



Bonnie and Geary Serpas



Carolyn Dickson and Dinh Swanson



Tyler and Buck Mizzell



Smiling faces from the
MCCS Auction!

Nancy Doolittle
Tom & Peggy Camp
John Maker
Donna Denton
Julie Small



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
Fred C. Jones
2056 Dunn Road
Moultrie, GA 31768**



**Membership Form
ACCS Annual Dues, September 2019– August 2020
Single or Double \$15.00**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone Number (include Area Code) _____

E-Mail _____

