

Atlantic Coast Camellias

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Camellia Japonica 'Happy Birthday'

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From the Cover *‘Happy Birthday’*

Large, light pink, striped deep pink, peony form with fluted, ruffled petals. It has 60 petals, 12 petaloids, yellow anthers and white filaments. Blooms early to midseason. Registered in 1979 by L.G. MacDowell of Lakeland, Florida.



Happy Birthday photos taken by
J. D. Thomerson

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***ACCS Convention
September 16-18, 2021
Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort***

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Randolph Maphis

While walking through my camellia grafts the other day, I discover that one graft of a new variety named Gabriel Maphis, named for my grandson, is wilted and dying (see photo at right.) It has been bitten off by a rouge deer for the fourth time. My battle with the deer has been ongoing for about ten years. They have eaten my vegetable garden, knockout roses, amaryllis, agapanthus, camellias, yard weeds, and anything else they happen to see. They also leave hoards of ticks in the yard. I am highly allergic to tick bites. They bite me leaving a hard knot that itches for days. Every time I work outside in the camellias, I would come inside with two or three ticks. All my neighbors have the same problem. Howard Rhodes is putting in a fence to keep them out of his camellia garden. Steve Lawrence fenced his vegetable garden and camellia grafting bed. Everyone in the neighborhood complains about the deer and the ticks. I even bought expensive insect resistant pants, shirts, and socks.



I have tried several different ways of deterring the wandering herd of about ten devils. I have put out human hair, sprayed Deer-Off, and applied Milorganite around the plants in my garden. Nothing worked for long. I then decided that a fence was the answer. Two years ago, I fenced the vegetable garden and solved that problem with the deer eating my beans, tomatoes, and potatoes.

Four years ago, I decided that the deer were eating the weeds in the yard first. They were, so I pulled all the weeds in the several large beds and sprayed the yard and beds with Celsius to kill the existing weeds, and Alion, a pre-emergent to keep them from sprouting for about nine months. Celsius, is a herbicide that will NOT kill centipede and St. Augustine grass but only the weeds. In fact, it will kill several weeds that Roundup will not kill. The weeds were dead and that is when the deer really began to eat my camellias with a vengeance. My problems got worse. Grafts that are tender and growing are easy targets for deer. They love them because they are so tender. When deer eat the top of a graft, they leave a hole in the top of the graft that lets dieback in the plant. Thus, the Gabriel Maphis and some others have succumbed to the dieback fungus.



This year in May, I contracted for a black chain link fence on three sides of the yard, and a decorative aluminum fence for the front yard, to keep the deer out for good (see photo above left.) The fence was the answer, and the only problem is we could not get gates for the driveway. After a few days they discovered the openings in the fence and got in to eat my grafts again. The fence contractor brought me two temporary gates to stand in the 12 ft. holes of the driveway (see photo above right.) After a few days the neighbor left the gate between us open, and the deer came in to eat the grafts for a third time. About three weeks later I forgot to go close one of the temporary driveway gates, and they ate the grafts off for the fourth time. At 6:30 that morning my eastern neighbor saw my dog, Atlas, chase the deer toward the front of my yard. Atlas was so close to the deer that it ran through the fence in the front of the yard (see photo at right.) I guess you could call the chase a hot pursuit.



Also, after installing the fence the population of ticks has been greatly reduced. If I walk next door to the neighbor's house to the west, I come home with ticks if I am not wearing my tick resistant socks, pants and shirt. Yes, I bought a gallon of .50% Permethrin to spray my clothes (see photo at right.) You spray your clothes with Permethrin, let them dry, and the chemical is good for about six or eight washings before they need to be treated again. By the way, you can buy insect resistant socks, shirts, and pants, but they are really expensive. A gallon of Permethrin costs about the same as a pair of insect resistant pants, and you can spray dozens of pairs of cheap jeans and shirts, over and over for about the same price. My next-door neighbor to the east, had his yard sprayed and it cost about \$700 to get it sprayed with Talstar. A month later, the ticks were back. You can buy 8 gallons of Permethrin for \$700.



My neighbors have seen the deer circling my yard in the late evenings and early mornings looking for a way into my yard. Three days ago, when I went to the road to retrieve the morning paper two deer were waiting for me to open the gate. Atlas sent them on their way with a hot pursuit. Hopefully, by the time you read this the new gates will be installed and the deer and tick problem will be solved. Thankfully, most of my grafts this year were grafted in a raised bed that is enclosed inside the fence for the vegetable garden (see photo at right.) These grafts look great like they should this time of year.



Last week, a team of ACS members went to Masee Lane to replot the camellias for the Leon and Lois Silver Building. Things are slowly returning to normal. I also hope that our camellia societies will all get back to normal with meetings, shows, and all the things that make camellia gardening fun. The Tallahassee Camellia Society held their 2021-2022

organizational meeting last week, and planned the programs for the next year. We set the date for our January Camellia Show. I hope all the camellia societies do the same.

I have really enjoyed being your ACCS President for the last three years. I hope to see each of you at the annual ACCS Convention on September 16th through the 18th 2021. Make your reservations and pay your dues early.



**Nuccio's Bella
Rosa Var.**

Red Blotched White, Large,
Formal Double, E-L

Registered in 2001 by
Nuccio's Nursery
Altadena, CA

Photographed by
Gary Shanz
Sacramento, CA



Above Photo: Tree spade used to remove large camellias from the Gordy Garden in Ocala, FL and relocate to the Wilmot Garden on the University of Florida Campus

Below Photo: Konrad Hooper shows how large the holes are after removing the camellias



Growing Camellias from Seed

“From Sprouting to Blooming”

by J. D. Thomerson

I love all aspects of the camellia hobby: planting them, growing them, grafting, air-layering, and going to shows and entering blooms. But, without a doubt I have enjoyed growing camellias from seed the most. I enjoy looking for the seed pods in late summer/early fall. I fondly remember many outings when Katie (my daughter) was just 7 and 8 years old going to various gardens around Valdosta and looking for seedpods. The actual seeds are inside a corky pod about the size of a large golf ball (see photo next page.) It was like an Easter Egg hunt for us. Katie’s eyes were so good and from her lower height position could find many that I would miss. We collected loads of seeds from the Whitehead Camellia Trail on Valdosta State University campus just across the street from our house. The old Sara Oliver Camellia Garden that was dedicated to Hulyn and Janet Smith during the 2015 ACS Convention was also just a short walk past the Whitehead Garden. Then there was the short ½ mile drive to Hulyn Smith’s camellia garden that we so enjoyed. Lucky for me, Katie and I collected seed from some great



JDT #5: Small, Peony. All Photos in this article are of J. D.’s Unregistered Seedlings



JDT #8: Medium, Pink, Formal Double

locations with great camellia varieties. Hulyn often told me that “You Don’t Get Chicken Salad from Chicken XXXX (well, lets’ say manure.”)

Japonica, sasanqua, and reticulata camellias do not come true from seed. They might look similar to their male and female parents like real children do but they will be different. Some species such as sinensis (tea plant), yushienensis, saluenensis, and others do come true from seed and are typically nearly identical to the seed parent.

Back when I first collected seeds, I did not record what varieties they came from – I just loaded both front and back pants

pockets full of them until they were falling out and I looked a bit deformed around my mid parts. Hundreds collected on every outing – thousands collected and planted over that two-year span.

After collecting the seed, comes step #2. Plant the seeds as soon as possible – how's that for simplicity. Well, yes, it can be just that simple. I do recommend planting in wide shallow pots (about 6 - 8 inches wide by 5 - 6 inches deep — see photo below.) Use very free draining potting mix – something like 1/3 sand, 1/3 fine park bark, 1/3 perlite. Other growers use other mixes, but it should

not contain soil that stays wet. Rotting seeds are the enemy at this stage. If I plant in pots, I put 20 – 30 seeds in each pot and cover with just enough soil mix to cover the seeds. Water mix when dry and keep squirrels and birds from digging up the seeds with wire cover if needed. Within 2 – 4 months you should get a few sprouts – many others



JDT #16: Large, Early - Mid, Peony

Seed Pods & Seeds



Community Seed Pot



Rooted Seedling — Ready to Pot in 1 Gallon Container





1 Year Old Seedlings in Individual Pots

will wait until spring to sprout. Keep pots in semi-shaded outdoor location. If a freeze is forecast, I bring the pots inside my garage then move back out when it warms – don't let the seed and pots freeze. This method is the easiest and it works just fine.

If you are impatient (like me) and want quicker results, Hulyn Smith taught me another method and this is how I have rooted most of my seedlings. If you are brave and have a steady hand you can try and crack the seeds slightly using a hammer – but be very careful, it is extremely easy to smash the entire seed.

If I have enough seed of a variety, I crack a few but if seeds are scarce or of a very rare variety, I don't risk destroying the seed. Cracking the seeds or nicking the outer coat somehow really speeds up germination but can be skipped. Whether you crack or nick the seeds or skip doing that step do soak them in warm water for about 8 hours. Then, get long grained sphagnum moss like you use when air-layering. Squeeze out all water (really squeeze hard.) Place moss in one-gallon plastic zip-lock bag then throw in about 75 seeds per bag and place on top of your hot water heater. If no hot water heater you could get a heating pad for plants. The low bottom heat around 75 degrees germinates the seeds much quicker than growing outside in pots. It still takes two – three months for most to sprout and start growing a taproot. Once the taproot grows about two inches, I remove the seed and pinch off about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the bottom to encourage side roots to develop and toss back in the bag. It takes a month or two after the tap root grows for the leaves to start growing from the stem. Once leaves are about to emerge, I remove



JDT #10: Large, Royal Velvet Seedling



JDT #15: Large with Dark Petal Edges



JDT #11: Large, Retic Seedling of Sara Paul

would suggest digging them up during the cooler months and pinch the tap root if needed to encourage branching. A more polished way to use this “lazy-man” approach is to plant the seeds in a raised bed like used for growing vegetables. You could plant hundreds in a small six by six foot wooden raised bed (make the raised bed about 10 – 12 inches in height.) This is how Pat Johnson has rooted 15,000 seedlings (see photos below.) Just make sure you keep the varmints out – squirrels, raccoons, opossums, cats, dogs, etc., all love to root around in these beds. After the seedlings are two or three years-old they can be transplanted to a more permanent home or potted in the appropriate size pot and grown another year or two before planting.

Katie and I gathered so many seed those first two years because I figured only a small percentage would sprout and grow. Boy, that was not the case. I believe 90% plus grew. I had seedlings everywhere. Small 4-inch pots with single camellia’s in them (I learned later to use the community pots with several in each pot) and quart pots with one to three plants per pot. The second and third-year small seedlings had to be moved up to larger one-gallon pots. I still typically only filled the one gallon pots up about 2/3 height of the pot to avoid root rot – continue to use loose soil mix.

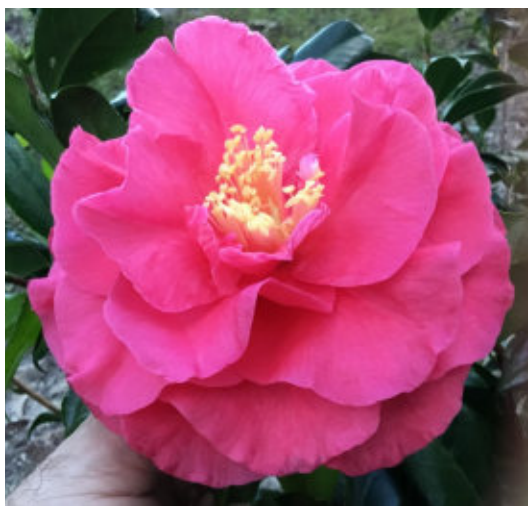
the seeds and plant about four to six seedlings in a quart type pot with the same very loose potting mix described earlier.

Finally, a third “lazy-man special” way to sprout seedlings and yes, I have done this several times with success. Collect the seeds from the bush, open up the capsule to get the actual seed, use your foot to root around the mulch below the bush and just a bit of the soil, throw the seeds in this area, then cover the seeds back with the mulch and forget about them. In a year or two I often find my little seedlings about six inches tall and I can easily dig them up to pot. I



Pat Johnson’s Raised Seed Beds





JDT #19: Large, Dark Pink, SD to Peony



JDT #3: Large, Dark Red, SD

By year four, you could barely walk around my yard without tripping over 100's of pots of camellia seedlings here and 100's over there (about 1,000 total.) I had hoses all over the place to water them. The pots were so small I had to water like every two days in the summer – it was beginning to control my life. When year five came around and the seedlings needed potting in two gallon or larger pots I volunteered to take over all my neighbors mowing the grass and trimming bushes duties if she would let me keep my 1,000 or so camellia pots in her backyard.

After a year or two of growing them in pots in my neighbor's backyard, Mark Crawford felt sorry for me and offered to allow me to plant the seedlings in two 900 foot-long rows out as his camellia nursery. I planted them almost like corn – just one foot apart with four feet between rows. I just wanted to give them enough room to bloom and if worthy we would root cuttings and graft them to continue evaluation. We installed drip tape running down the length of the two rows and the proximity to each other made fertilizing and spraying easy.



JDT #26: Small, Formal Double

Well, those seedlings loved their new home and in the next 3 – 4 years have grown tremendously. In hindsight, it would have been best to plant them in the ground around year three – they grew so much faster once in the ground than they did in pots. During year four and five I lost at least a 100 due to issues with growing in pots. Three-fourths of the seedlings have now bloomed and there are around 30 very good ones so far and of those we think 8 – 10 will be worth registering. But, don't think for a

second that the others were a waste of time. They are all beautiful – like real human children they might not win the beauty contest, but they are still beautiful. I make sure I visit Mark and the seedlings at least 2 – 3 times a week during bloom season and at least weekly the rest of the year and this is the best part of the entire experience.

Many of my seedlings I consider just as nice as registered varieties but not different enough from them to justify registration. Mark and I plan to just leave these where they are and enjoy their beauty for years to come. Others, that are a bit more on the homely side but are strong growers are being used to graft named varieties. We dig up some of these grafted seedlings and relocate or sell them but other large ones we plan to leave in place.

Now that I have grown seedlings for ten years, I want to share with everyone several tips and suggestions but also several things not to do. First, it is very, very easy to grow camellia seedlings. If a squirrel can do it; surely, we humans can. In fact, occasionally a seedling roots all on its own after falling out of the bush onto the mulch below. I have dug up many such volunteer camellias. First rule and most important – **ONLY** plant seeds from outstanding varieties. Remember, we want Chicken Salad not Chicken Manure. Don't waste your time collecting seeds from single form blooms. The singles will set hundreds of seeds and 99% of them will be inferior singles themselves. Collect seeds only from the very nicest varieties that have many petals and complex bloom forms such as peony, anemone, semi-double, and rose form. True formal double blooms do not contain sexual parts so they will not set seed.



JDT #7: Large, White, Peony



JDT #31: Medium, Soft Pink, SD



JDT #33: Medium, Pink, Anemone Center

You do not have to hand hybridize the blooms yourself by swabbing pollen from one bloom onto the pistil of the mother seed bloom to get a great camellia. You can let the bees do your work. Hand pollination can come later if you so choose but it is very time consuming and keeping up with all the record keeping of which seed has what momma and daddy is too tedious for me. Also, it makes no-sense to me to do all the work of hand hybridizing if you are not already experienced in growing the seeds from sprout to bloom. Yes, hand hybridizing is great when you are seeking a certain type bloom color, size, shape, or smell – but, if you kill the poor seedling you have gone thru much work for naught. In fact, 90% plus of all camellias are chance seedlings. Some of these we know the mother seed parent but for most we know neither the mother nor father. But, if you remember Rule #1, only gather seeds from great varieties with lots of petals and if you collect seeds from camellia collections that have great varieties all around and not a dud in the yard this increases your odds of a nice seedling tremendously.

Great camellia growers that have registered many seedlings such as Lillian Gordy (60 plus varieties), Paul Gilley (50 varieties), Pat Johnson (120 plus varieties), and others did/do not hand hybridize. The Reticulata and non-retic hybrids are typically the only varieties that we know both seedling parents and we still only know the mother for most of these. Yes, you will have to plant 100's of japonica seedlings from outstanding varieties to get 2 or 3 worth registering. But, like I said earlier, there will be 20 others that are probably just as nice as an already named variety. Twenty or so others that are



JDT #6: Medium, SD, Variable Stripes



JDT #36: Small - Medium, SD



JDT #41: Large, Rose Form Double

not worthy of registering but too pretty and nice to chop down. And, you can use most of the duds if healthy growers as rootstock for grafting. I suggest learning to grow great seeds from great mother plants first – then, move up to hand hybridizing later.

Growing reticulata seedlings increase your odds of getting a very nice bloom tremendously. However, they present unique challenges. Reticulata seeds are often infertile or do not sprout as readily as japonica seeds but when they do sprout, they grow very fast the first year or two and then suddenly just die. Upon inspection they have very poor roots with little lateral branching. Growers have learned that retic seeds need to be planted in the ground by year two or grafted onto a vigorous rootstock. Retic seedlings seldom grow more than two years in a pot. Also, the reticulatas are hard to keep alive even in the ground due to dieback (they need to be sprayed with fungicide several times a year) but if you grow a retic seed to bloom chances are it will be very nice.

I suggest using liquid fertilizer (like the blue Peter's brand powder) on new one and two-year old seedlings. During the second year you can begin to use organic fertilizer such as Milorganite or other "man-do" similar products, cottonseed meal (make sure it contains no salt), or Holly Tone or similar products. During the third year you can carefully begin using slow release chemical fertilizer.

Once you see a very nice bloom from a seedling that might be worth registering make sure to root some cuttings and graft scions onto vigorous rootstock. That seedling is one of a kind and if it dies it is irreplaceable. Propagate your good seedlings and share with others to help you evaluate how well they grow and to get other folk's opinions on if they are worthy to register. Take lots and lots of photos – this is one of my favorite things to do. Treat some blooms with gibberellic acid and take note of how this improves bloom time, size, color.

Remember, planting camellia seeds is easy – growing them up until they bloom takes much more time and work. But, try it and I think you will be like me and love this aspect of the camellia hobby.



JDT #14: Large, Red, Anemone Center



JDT #2: Large, Red Glossy, SD

HOFHEIMER CAMELLIA GARDEN

“A GARDEN WITHIN A GARDEN” AT NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN

by Bob Black

Norfolk, home of the Atlantic Naval Fleet, is also home to the largest botanical garden in Virginia, Norfolk Botanical Garden. Today the garden occupies 155 acres and has an interesting early history. Motivated by the vision and promotional skills of Thomas Thompson, Norfolk City Manager, and the horticultural dreams of Fredric Heutte, Supervisor of Norfolk City Parks, the City of Norfolk moved to set aside 150 acres for a botanical garden project in 1938. Thompson and Heutte aspired to create an azalea garden to rival the beautiful gardens in existence in Charleston, SC.

In 1938, with a WPA grant in hand, ground was broken. Two hundred African American women and twenty men were hired. Their first assignment was to remove the dense undergrowth on twenty five acres. Working from dawn to dusk for 25 cents an hour they



Fredric Heutte



Friendship Pond at Norfolk Botanical Garden



Hofheimer Camellia Garden

succeeded. In addition, they hauled, by hand, the equivalent of 150 truckloads of soil for the construction of a levee for Mirror Lake. And amazingly, this was accomplished in less than a year.

Their second assignment was to plant several thousand ornamentals which Heutte obtained through a donation from a local nursery. Four thousand azaleas, two thousand rhododendrons, and several thousand other ornamental trees, shrubs, and bulbs were successfully planted by March of 1939. Thompson and Heutte's vision was becoming a reality. Many of these hard working gardeners chose to continue their career in the newly established Norfolk Azalea Garden. Today, a beautiful bronze statue to honor the African American crew's ground breaking work is appropriately located on the site of their work by Mirror Lake (see photo below.)

Now fast forward to today and you will see a garden of award winning theme gardens. The 1950's and 60's brought significant improvements to NBG. The Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, Renaissance Court Garden, Conifer Garden, and the Perennial Garden are among over twenty theme gardens within NBG. But, you know those gardens are not the garden in the garden that camellia enthusiasts are most interested in seeing and hearing about.

In October of 1992 Virginia Camellia Society volunteers, a few NBG staff gardeners, and twenty five Boy Scouts broke ground planting the first 160 camellias in an area of NBG that would become the Hofheimer Camellia Garden. Envisioned, promoted, and implemented by VCS member Dr. T. Winston Gouldin, the Hofheimer Garden plan has grown into a collection of nearly 700 plants. The garden is named in honor of Alan and Aline Hofheimer, who were founding members of the Virginia Camellia society and strong supporters of the society's mission. Japonicas and Sasanquas dominate the collection, but many hybrids, both *reticulata* and *non-reticulata*, are included. Also, there are approximately twenty separate species planted. The 2.3 acre collection is arranged into twenty-one irregular shaped



Sculpture in Garden

beds which are accessed by cedar chip pathways. A mixture of mature pine and hardwoods throughout the garden provide excellent dappled shade. The Hofheimer Garden is located between Friendship Pond and the Renaissance Garden. It is on the heavily traveled tram pathway, so many visitors see it daily.

In keeping with their mission to promote, educate, and share the beauty of camellias, the VCS holds semiannual hands-on workshops within the Hofheimer Garden. Typically the first Saturday of April, the spring workshop takes place. In the early years, volunteers were instructed and assisted in, primarily, the optimal planting procedures for camellias. Pruning demonstrations remain a priority in the spring as the plants finish blooming. More recently, the primary focus of the spring workshop is air layering. VCS members and volunteers typically put on two hundred or more air layers.

The second hands on workshop in mid-August focuses primarily on harvesting and potting the successful air layers into containers. These are grown on for one year and sold to raise funds for VCS at various events throughout the year. Volunteers may also purchase, at a discount, air layer propagated plants. In addition, volunteers are instructed and assisted in proper disbudding and gibbing for show quality flowers. At the end of every workshop, lunch and refreshments are provided by VCS as a show of sincere appreciation for good work. The hands on workshops have been well attended and have been a great help in the establishment and maintenance of the Hofheimer Garden. In addition, VCS has received good feedback and new members from the events.

In 1997, the camellia collection within NBG was designated an official North American plant collection by the North



Terrell Weaver



Camellia Grijsii

American Plant Collection Consortium. Designated as such, the garden is committed to holding and developing a collection of documented living plants. This type of recognition has responsibilities as well. The plants must be maintained in good health, accurate identification records cataloged, and be available to breeders to develop possible new hybrids.

In 2001 the Hofheimer Camellia Garden was added to the short list of gardens designated by the International Camellia Society as "Garden of Excellence". Fredric Heutte's vision and contagious enthusiasm for beautification through horticulture lives on today within the many gardens at the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

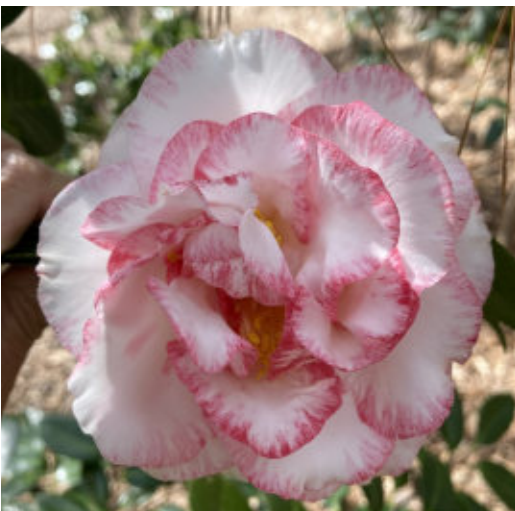
The Photos Below and on the Previous Page were Taken by Bob Black and are Just a Sampling of the Wonderful Camellias Growing in the Hofheimer Camellia Garden



Candy Apple



Ashley Black



Betty's Beauty



Jitsu-Getsu-Sei

THE SOLVING OF A CAMELLIA MYSTERY

by Jerry Selph

This mystery concerns camellias, however it does not rank with a good Agatha Christie 'who dunnit' but is interesting to some just the same. While attending a camellia show in the early 2000's several of the judges while waiting for the judging to begin were looking about the camellia collection at a botanical garden. They were taken aback by the silvery appearance of the leaves on most of the plants. Several opinions were lodged as to what the causal agent was for their appearance. The consensus was that it was a bad infestation of spider mites. One of the assembled judges, a PhD in entomology, whipped out his hand lens (PhD's in entomology carry them with them at all times) and made his determination. He determined that the symptoms were not spider mites due to the lack of stippling in the leaf surface. When pressed he admitted that he had no clue as to what the cause of the damage was, but it wasn't spider mites.

Fast forward, if you will, to 2015 and Carol's and my camellia garden. While riding in our garden we started to notice a small group of deep red varieties showing that afore mentioned symptoms. Out came the trusty hand lens and not a mite to be seen. No mites, no 1st or 2nd instar, no eggs, nothing. I sprayed a couple of days later as part of our normal cultural practices and I threw in some Abamectin and oil just to be safe.

A few days later I noticed more dark red varieties showing the symptoms. Bells start clanging and whistles start going off. I look very closely for mites. NO MITES! Time to start a detailed investigation of the problem. When confronted with a new or unknown situation you always go back to basics and start from there.

So as a first step I took soil samples from around the affected plants as well as other parts of the garden. I also utilized my experience as a citrus field consultant and took leaf samples. Off to the lab we go.

The results were e-mailed a few days later. The soil pH was 5.1 and the leaf mineral content was low to very low for phosphorus but the manganese (a trace mineral in plant growth) was off the chart. It was at least 5000 times too high in content.

So, the bright silver cast to the leaves was actually crystalline collections of Manganese crystals in the leaf cells. I call it Manganese Toxicity.

THE SOLUTION: The application of dolomitic limestone at the rate of 3 tons per acre for the next three years and maintaining a strong fertilizer program did the trick.

HOW DID THE PROBLEM GET STARTED IN THE FIRST PLACE?: The soil testing had been skipped the previous year and the fertility program had dropped control release nutrients in favor of activated sewage sludge and sulfate of potash. The pH of

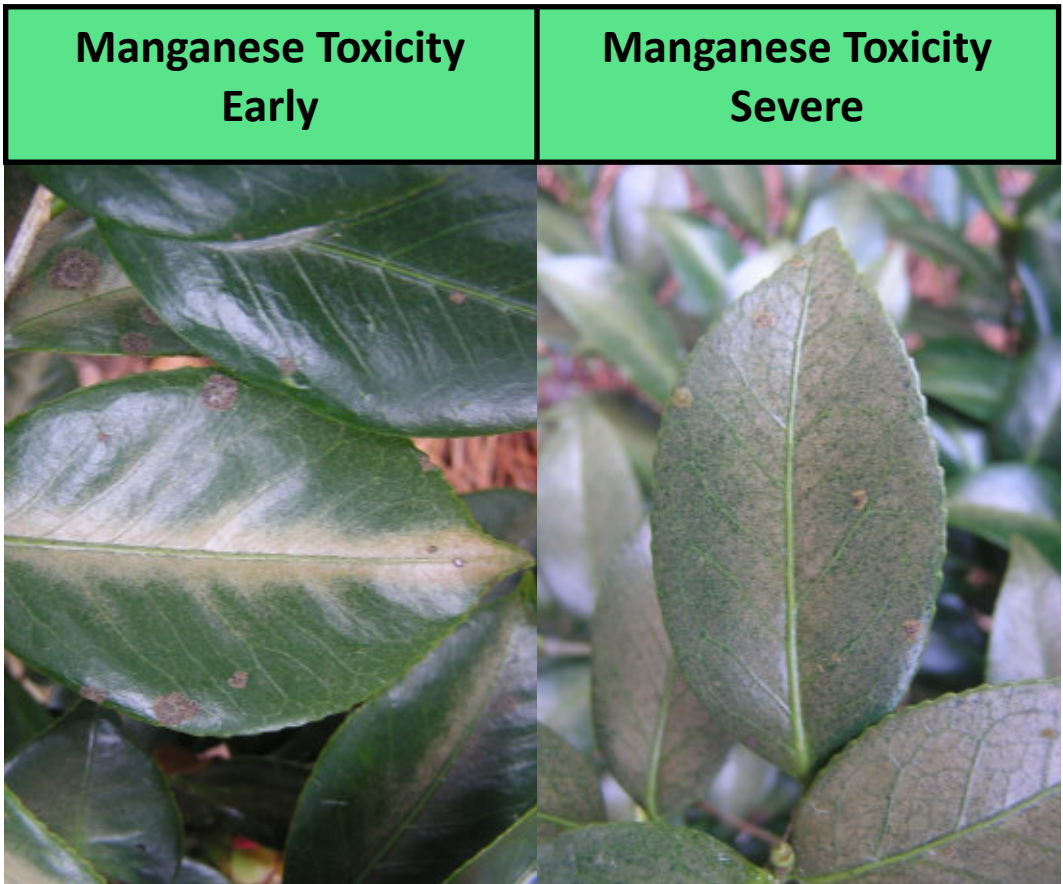
activated sewage sludge exhibits highly variable ranges. Some of the different sludges are nearly neutral in pH and some are very acidic. The acidic ones are due to the use of hydrochloric acid to make the sludge settling pond flocculate or settle quicker.

LESSON LEARNED: Only use nutrients from a known, reputable source.

RESULTS: After a couple of years the symptoms have disappeared.

SUGGESTIONS: Always soil test yearly. Always stick to the basics in fertilizers. Always make sure what the problem is before you treat.

EPILOGUE: Not a great mystery or solution but one that has merit due to the fact that a lot of mite damage that gets treated is not mite damage.





**Scenes from the
Wiregrass Camellia
Society**

Spring Picnic

May 2021

Home of J. D. &

Kay Thomerson





**Scenes from the
Gainesville Camellia
Society**

**Air-Layering Day
April 2021**

**Home of
John Swanson**





MR. PATRICK AND MR. BOB

“Camellia Growers of Prominence”

By John Swanson



Mr. Bob



Mr. Patrick

Mr. Patrick (Andrews) and Mr. Bob (Weidman) have an outstanding botanical garden featuring about six and a half acres of camellias. They acquired a nearly 10-acre plot of virgin woodland in Citra, Florida. The first shrubs they planted were camellias they had dug up and brought from their previous property. The garden now includes a large palm garden, a native plant garden, a citrus grove, and numerous magnolias and azaleas. Their camellia collection presently includes about 1560 cultivars, 49 species, and numerous seedlings, for a total of over 2500 camellias. The diversity of their garden shows a love of all plants included in the landscape design. Their tree collection is in a two-acre field, including a modest holly collection thanks to John Davy.

The collection began growing rapidly after they met Jim Smith from Old South Nursery in Ocala, and then in the early 2000s when they met Clarence and Lillian Gordy. They air-layered all of the Gordy Japonicas and Hybrids as well as many of their seedlings. One year they air-layered over 700 cultivars at the Gordy's. Their air-layering technique, as it developed, was based on advice primarily from Clarence Gordy and Hulyn Smith, and their success ratio results in close to 100% consistently.

The Gordy's became very close friends over the years. Patrick and Bob loved spending time with them, and the Gordy's enjoyed their visits and appreciated their help around the garden. Their friendship with the Gordy's played a key role in expanding their Citra garden and making it what it is today. Other influential people from whom they also got air-layers are Chuck Ritter, Howard Smith, and John Thrasher III.



Patrick Andrews

Bob Weidman

Patrick and Bob learned much from their mentors. Early on they joined local camellia societies in Ocala and Gainesville. Patrick has held many offices in both the Ocala and Gainesville societies as well as leadership of the regional ACCS and national ACS organizations. He saw his work in the organizations as “What can I do for the organization, not what can they do for me.” Bob has been supportive of the organizations, but in more indirect ways.

This team from Citra participates in several camellia shows each year. This has resulted in many life-long friendships with other camellia enthusiasts. But showing takes a back seat to their stronger interest in gardening and landscaping with camellias.



Patrick's and Bob's Beautiful Garden



Patrick's and Bob's Beautiful Garden

Their care of plants is fairly simple. They fertilize two to three times a year, generally on the dates of the solstice and equinox, with fertilizers for azalea, camellia, & rhododendrons. They spray occasionally for mites and scale insects with horticultural oil. Pruning is done lightly, only when needed to help shape the plants or help them recover from damage from falling tree branches. Disbudding is done as time permits,

especially on plants near the edge of the garden. Gibbing is begun after Labor Day and continues weekly until December.

They spend about 20 hours a week taking care of the garden. During show season they pick blooms during the week of the show, but do not spend much time “grooming” the blooms. They do most of the work in the garden with the exception of removing large trees when they topple over.

Patrick and Bob Have Identified the Following Camellias as Their Favorites

Japonicas: Elegans Supreme, Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso, Betty Sheffield Supreme, Nuccio's Gem, and Lillian Gordy.

Reticulatas: Frank Houser Variegated, Holy Pure, Valentine Day Variegated, MacKenzie Green, and Brooke Maphis.

Hybrids: High Fragrance, Julia, Senritsu-Ko, Anticipation Variegated, And Mona Jury Variegated.

Other Species: C. Flava, C. changii (aka C. azalea), C. Edithae, C. Salicifolia, C. Lapidea, and C. Chekiangoleosa.

Patrick and Bob have registered the following camellia plants, most of which are Gordy Seedlings: Lillian Gordy, Maudie Clarinda, Eileen Weidman, Ruby Irene, Peter Cottontail, Bubble Gum (Sasanqua), Jimmy Carter, Mister Bob, Mister Patrick, and Dinh Swanson (see photos on the next page.)

Patrick and Bob also arranged for the Gordy's to donate five camellias to raise funds for the ACS Endowment fund. Three of them were registered: Bombshell, C. Allen Favrot, and Mignon Favrot, and donations ranged from \$25,000 to \$50,000. They do raise camellias from seeds, but so far have not found a real show winner. Several are under consideration.



Dinh Swanson



Ruby Irene

Advice to Novices and Other Newcomers: Join a local camellia society and then join the regional and national organizations if their interest increases. Attend as many Camellia shows as possible so they can learn how to identify which varieties they like and to expand their list of likes.

Advice to Camellia Organizations: Get out and interact with the public, engage them in conversations about gardening in general, and how they picture their garden in the future. Share knowledge with them. All it takes to get many people to join a plant organization is simply to ask.

Bob and Patrick have an outstanding garden and they have shown themselves to be very hospitable to visitors and guests. I am sure they would welcome you to visit Citra's Premier Botanical Garden.



Jimmy Carter



Peter Cottontail

ARE YOU INSANE?

FIND OUT: TAKE THE CAMELLIA INSANITY QUIZ

by J. D. Thomerson

If you have ever had a meal at a Cracker Barrel restaurant (and who living in the Southeast has not) you have surely noticed the small wooden triangular games that sit on every table that allow you to jump little golf tee sized pegs over one another removing the one that you jump over. You begin with all the small holes on the game board filled with pegs except one and you keep jumping pegs and removing the ones you jump until you cannot jump over anymore.

If you have never been to a Cracker Barrel or can't recall what I am talking about then I think you need to stop at a Cracker Barrel one day and play this game. The goal is to only leave one peg on the wooden game board or if you are really good you only leave one peg in the exact center hole of the game. Let me warn you – the game can get addictive. It is much harder to only leave one peg than you might think. In fact, there is a grading scale printed on this game describing a person's intelligence level based on how many pegs they leave on the board. Here is the grading scale:

- One Peg = You're a Genius
- Two Pegs = You're Pretty Smart
- Three Pegs = You're Just Average
- Four Pegs = You're Just Plain Dumb
- Five Pegs or more = You're an Ignoramus

I am embarrassed to tell you that I have played this game many times and on several occasions been declared an "Ignoramus." Usually, I score in the "Just Average" category and only on one or two occasions that I can recall was I ever a "Genius."

This peg board game got me thinking about the insanity level of the typical camellia grower or "Camellian" as we often call one another. When Jerry Selph visited my yard one day and saw the hundreds of potted camellias I had placed in my neighbors back yard because there was no room left to plant them in my yard he said (and I quote) "Oh, you're sick."

Now, to a "Non-Camellian" this would be an insult, but not to a camellia addict. Someone saying that you are sick is basically their way of welcoming you as an official member of the Camellia Nut Club. I was honored by Jerry telling me that I was sick because believe me, he is sicker than me.

Ignoramus: a person who does not know much: an ignorant or stupid person

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Being that I am a teacher by vocation I decided to create a quick quiz so other camellia folks can determine if they are “sick” and if they are, how sick. To take this quiz you simply need to keep track of how many times you would say “YES” to each of the following 21 questions.

Be Honest and Here We Go:

1. Do you have several written lists of camellias you want to buy, graft, or air-layer in various locations around your home?
2. Do you get excited when someone mentions a good new fertilizer product?
3. Can you rattle off 30 or more camellia varieties in five minutes or less?
4. Have you lost track of how many camellias and the varieties you actually own?
5. Have you ever debated whether Kanjiro, Kumagai Nagoya, Hongluzhen, Eqao, or some other variety was the best rootstock for grafting?
6. Have you ever dug up and thrown away or grafted on a perfectly nice camellia variety to make room for a new variety you have never even seen bloom?
7. Have you ever lied to you wife/husband or significant other about purchasing a new camellia or hidden a new purchase from their view?



8. Have you traveled more than 3 hours to attend a camellia show?
9. Have you ever decided you did not want to go on a vacation trip (or cut a vacation trip short) so you could make sure your camellias were well watered or maintained?
10. Have you ever had a dream about a camellia bloom or a camellia show?
11. Do you have old ACS yearbooks, journals, nomenclature books, or other camellia books scattered around your living room or den, car, office, or bathroom?
12. Have you taken a camellia cutting from a vacant lot, public park, or unknown person’s yard?



**When it Deals with Camellias
are You Insane or Just Crazy?**

Quiz Continued on the Next Page

13. Have you ever promised someone or yourself that you have all the camellias you want or will ever plant only to break that promise months later?
14. Do you have a spare refrigerator just for storing gibberellic acid, camellia cuttings or scions, chemicals, and/or camellia blooms?
15. Have you ever asked for a camellia plant as a birthday or Christmas gift?
16. Do you have two or more plastic or styrofoam storage bins or coolers dedicated for camellia blooms?
17. Have you ever called or asked a friend to come to your yard to look at one of your camellia blooms?
18. Have you ever taken twice as many photos of camellia blooms in a given year than you took of family members and friends?
19. If you made a most hated list, spider mites, scale, dieback, and petal blight would all be in the top ten?
20. Have you tried three or more successful methods of grafting camellias but continue to look for an even better method?

Bonus Question:

21. Do you have at least one greenhouse used mainly for camellias? NOTE: add another Yes answer if you have a second greenhouse or wish you had made greenhouse #1 much larger.

**Camellia Insanity Grading Scale
(Based Upon the Number of Yes's Answers)**

- 0 - 4 = You're Basically a Normal Person
- 5 - 8 = You're in Danger of Getting Sick
- 9 - 14 = You're Sick – No Question About It
- 15 or more = You're Insane – There is No Doubt

Well, how sick are you? I am on the borderline between being “Sick” and being “Insane.” If you are a “Normal Person” or only in “Danger of Getting Sick” I encourage you to continue attending your local camellia club, go to as many camellia shows as possible, join the American Camellia Society, get to know as many other “Camellians” as possible, especially those that are “Sick” or “Insane.” If you will do these things you too will soon be complimented by a fellow camellia friend when they tell you, “Oh, you’re sick.” And always remember, when it comes to the camellia hobby, crazy people have more fun.

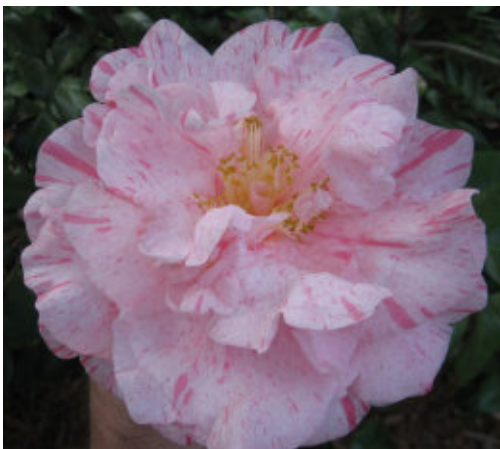
Name That Camellia (answers on page 34)
Each is the Top Show Point Winner in Each Class for 2019



1. Medium Reticulata



2. Medium Non-Retic Hybrid



3. Very Large Japonica



4. Best White



5. Small Japonica



6. Mini Non-Retic Hybrid

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Answers to Name That Camellia:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| (1) Adrienne Boueres | (2) Spring Daze |
| (3) Lauren Tudor | (4) Melissa Anne |
| (5) Red Hots | (6) Sweet Jane |

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 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, and September. To join, send your check and personal information for receiving communications and journals to:

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



Membership Form

**ACCS Annual Dues, September 2021 — August 2022
Single or Double \$15.00**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone # (include Area Code): _____

E-Mail: _____



Camellia Japonica 'Stephanie Stanley'
Grown & Photographed by J. D. Thomerson