

Atlantic Coast Camellias



A NEW CAMELLIA SHOW

It is a pleasure to report that there will be a new camellia show in North Carolina next season. From all indications, it will be a very popular one and one that all camellia growers will want to attend and exhibit in. I am referring to the one that is being planned for Wilson, NC. It is planned for the 3rd week-end in February.

Wilson lies right on I-95 and claims to be the world's largest tobacco market. It probably is, too. It is also the place for antique lovers to come, browse, and resist buying if they can! I heard of a couple who lived in Washington, DC who spent a month in Florida every winter. They made a point of stopping in Wilson on their way home and buying enough antiques for resale in Washington to pay for their month vacation in Florida. The place to go

to attend an auction of antiques is Bobby Langston's. They have antiques, coins, guns, etc from all over the world. If you would rather go to an antique store and just browse, then go to Boone's. You'll wind up wanting to buy, so bring your checkbook.

For food, you can't beat Parker's Bar-B-Que and Seafood. It is known worldwide. Many of our camellia friends from Norfolk plan their trip so that they can stop in Wilson for some of Parker's Barbeque on their way home.

So put Wilson on your calendar for the 3rd week-end in February. Most of the top exhibitors in this part of the country will be there. The show will be held at Parkwood Mall. All the trophies will be sterling silver.



ABOUT THE COVER DRAWING

This drawing is of a typical farmhouse, built by a well-to-do farmer in the early 1900s. This particular house has 6 bedrooms, 2 baths and 8 fireplaces. The shrubbery around this house contains many camellias. Those of you who have been readers of this publication for the past few years probably guess (correctly) that this is the home of the editor's Grandmother Gordon, located near Sumter, SC.

Atlantic Coast Camellias

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The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society was organized September 13, 1980 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The purpose was to extend the appreciation of camellias and to promote the science of camellia culture. Dues are \$6.00/year for a single membership and \$9.00 for a couple. Make payment to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, 1325 E. Barden Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226.

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Editor's Page



Let's talk a moment about camellia publications, what we have, their importance and their quality. I am not familiar with any from Europe or from China or Japan. I don't know whether there are any exclusive publications on the subject or not in these countries. So I will touch only on those in this country, Australia and New Zealand.

There is one major camellia publication that is not as well known or as commonly subscribed to as it should be. I am referring to the annual publication of the International Camellia Society. This is a very fine magazine, though somewhat on the technical side. I can't imagine someone telling a joke or writing a humorous article for that publication. However, it does cover camellia activities in about 25 different countries. The society has about 1200 members as of this date. The 1985 issue had 103 pages and 39 color photographs. The articles are translated into French and sometimes into Italian also. Most of the articles in this publication are papers which were presented at the various international congresses. They are excellent however, as they have been prepared by the world's foremost camellia growers and students.

Of course everybody is familiar with the ACS yearbooks and journals. We won't dwell on them except to say that they are the major part of the catalyst that binds us all together in fellowship one with another and in learning how to better care for and grow our camellias. The ACS conventions, held twice a year, also contribute toward this end. Meeting like this, we get to know one another and to learn from one another.

Now, let's consider Australia. Their national society is called the Australian Camellia Research Society. This national society has 11 branches which would correspond roughly with our regional societies. In addition to some branch newsletters, the society publishes a slick little magazine 4 times a year. These magazines have from 15 to 25 pages as a rule. They are chock full of interesting and informative articles by Australia's most renowned camellia people, and Australia has its share of renowned camellia people. Three of these magazines are without color reproductions of any sort, but the one for December, every year, has a lovely camellia on the cover and from 16 to 18 additional color camellia pictures. One issue had 57 additional color reproduc-

tions. The December issue every year also lists and describes the camellias registered during the year.

The New Zealand Camellia Society also publishes a gem of a camellia magazine. It is called the New Zealand Camellia Bulletin. It is slick paper, about 35-40 pages and is published 4 times a year. It also is a bible for camellia lovers who want to know what other camellia growers are doing, what camellias are new, what camellias are worth while, etc. This magazine always carries a camellia in color on the cover and has other camellias in color within the pages, usually, 5 to 10. The New Zealand publication lists the new registrations in every issue. You will need to join this society if you want to keep abreast of the rapid development of the *williamsii* hybrids and the other miniature hybrids that are being introduced at a quickening pace Down Under. New Zealand's foremost camellia authorities contribute to this magazine and every issue is a camellia education in itself. In the September 1986 issue, there was a 24-page insert on Camellia Culture for Beginners by Col. Tom Durrant!

The Southern California Camellia Society publishes a very well-known slick paper, 24-page magazine that serves to weld together camellia growers in that area of the country. It is named the Camellia Review. It also carries a color camellia on the cover. Membership in this society includes, in addition to the magazine, copies of the camellia

nomenclature book as it comes out. Though much of the material is contributed by Southern California Camellia growers, there are, from time to time, articles from growers all over the world.

Now, this brings us to our own magazine, this one. It is one of the earliest to be published, though in a somewhat different form. It started out under the editorship of Frank Griffin in 1950, just 4 years after ACS began publishing its year-books. It has been in its present form since 1958. It has certainly changed in content since then, perhaps for the better, perhaps not! Though it has articles by the foremost camellia people in the States, it also taps the vast knowledge of growers in other countries, such as England, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. There are horticulturists who contribute articles, plant hybridizers, plant pathologists, experienced nurserymen as well as amateur growers, bubbling over with enthusiasm and passion to learn how to grow camellias better. The present editor welcomes humor and even surrenders himself to a humorous article once in a while. If a hobby cannot bring on a smile, if it cannot make you happy, what is it good for. Atlantic Coast Camellias has 28 pages as you can see, and no page or part of a page is wasted, even the back cover. We no longer have a color camellia on the cover on account of the cost. We may go back to it before long.



I am still surprised to see how dominant the species *fraterna* is in these hybrids (*fraterna* x *japonica*), although they have 3 parts *japonica* to one part *fraterna*.

O. Blumhardt, New Zealand
Personal Communication

Message

from Our President

Dear Members and Fellow Camellia Growers,

This is my first time to address you as your President and I must confess it is indeed an honor to do so. Jeannette and I have made a lot of friends in the South and it is always a pleasure to do our part in the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.

I guess a lot of you have heard that the Annual Convention at Myrtle Beach was a great success. The attendance was the best ever. My congratulations go out to Elliott Brogden on his fine job as President for the past two years. He did a great job and will be a tough act to follow. I would also like to thank for Elliott and all of the members, those people, who year after year, continue to give their time and effort to make the convention a success. To mention names would surely get me in a lot of trouble, as I would probably leave out someone who has worked very hard. Therefore, I will just say "thanks" to all of you.

I would also like to thank the delegation from California that attended the convention and helped make it a great success. A special thanks to Mr. Sergio Bracci, our guest speaker, for his very interesting comments.

By the time you get this message, the fall shows will be in full swing. I cannot urge our members and friends enough to make every attempt to attend as many shows as possible and be a contributor. Remember the best way to increase the number of exhibitors at your show is to at-

tend the show of another society and make them feel obligated to attend yours. Please drive that extra mile and take that extra bloom, and you just might make the difference between a good show and a great one.

I have mentioned earlier in my letter that the attendance at the annual convention was the best ever, and this is indeed true. However, I feel that there are still a lot of would-be members out there that need that little extra push to join our society. I know for a fact that just to receive this fine publication is worth more than the price of the membership. I ask each of you to help our society increase its membership.

As of this writing, preliminary plans are being made for the annual convention. There will be a meeting for all ACCS members in the spring. The exact date, time and location will be confirmed as soon as possible. We are hoping to hold our meeting in conjunction with the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society as in the past. An officer and director meeting will be held at the same time. There will be a plant auction for the benefit of ACCS. Please plan to attend and bring a plant for the auction.

Please remember, the fellowship will make the trip worth your while.

Richard L. Waltz,
President

Fooling With The Natives

Nollie Robinson

Ninety Six, SC

"The epithet fiery, I annex to this most celebrated species of azaleas, as being expressive of the appearance of its flowers, which are in general of the colour of the finest red lead, orange and bright gold, as well as yellow and cream colour. These various splendid colours are not only in separate plants, but frequently all the varieties and shades are seen in separate branches on the same plant; and the clusters of the blossoms cover the shrub in such incredible profusion of the hill sides, that suddenly opening to view from dark shades, we are alarmed with the apprehension of the hill being set on fire. This is certainly the most gay and brilliant shrub yet known. It grows in little copses or clumps, in open forests as well as dark groves, with other shrubs, and about the bases of hills, especially where brooks and rivulets wind about them. The bushes seldom rise above six or seven feet in height, and generally but three, four and five. But branch and spread their tops greatly. The young leaves are but very small whilst the shrubs are in bloom, from which circumstance the plant exhibits a greater show of splendour." This quotation from *Travels of William Bartram*, first published in 1791, is Bartram's reaction to his first encounter with *R. calendulaceum*, the flame azalea.

My first encounter with this superb plant occurred in 1968, not too many miles from where Bartram first observed it. Not being so eloquent as Mr. Bartram, I cannot adequately describe the impact this first meeting had on me. To give you some idea, I am now growing all fifteen of the deciduous species of azaleas described by Fred Galle in his new book *Azaleas*. All of them are worthy of growing. Many are fragrant, and include whites and pinks in addition to reds. It

distresses me that so little use is made of some of our best native flora.

I can remember when the few nursery catalogs that listed hybrid deciduous azaleas, which were generally crosses of our natives, carried the notation, "Not recommended south of North Carolina." Perhaps, this, plus the name "honeysuckle" being applied by uninitiated to endemic varieties they had seen, contributed to the lack of interest as plants being worthy of garden cultivation. For whatever reason they are not more widely grown, we are the losers, for our native azaleas are treasures we should cherish.

Until recently, these shrubs were not as easily available as they are now, and the list of nurseries offering them is growing steadily. I would not attempt to compile a comprehensive list of sources, but from personal experience would recommend Transplant Nursery at Lavonia, Georgia and Woodlanders in Aiken, South Carolina. Check with your local nurseryman or a rhododendron growing friend to find a nursery near you that offers native azaleas.

Our native deciduous azaleas are not difficult to grow. They require basically the same cultural practices as evergreen azaleas. But, they are much more cold hardy, offer yellows and oranges, and fragrance. Considering the efforts that have been expended to produce a yellow evergreen azalea, and recently a yellow camellia, I find it incredible that there is not more interest in this magnificent group of plants. They offer, in existing plants, what evergreen azalea and camellia hybridizers have been striving to produce for years.

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CAMELLIA HYBRIDS, QUO VADIS

Dr. T.E. Pierson

Hurstville, Australia

For some considerable time it has been obvious that most of the *Camellia* species can be used for hybridising and as the number of species available grows then so does the scope for this enterprise and it should be possible in the not too distant future to 'tailor make' our hybrids for any purpose we choose as was done in a rather elementary fashion and hit or miss manner to get the Williamsii group. So far the most evident attempt to tailor make the results has been by Sebire in Australia using Pitardi and Mrs. Durrant in New Zealand who has been doing interesting things with both Pitardi and the even more exotic species such as *Fraterna* and *Tsaii* but to date most of the hybrids are F1 first generation hybrids and some such as 'Valentine Day' and 'Vallee Knudsen' are hybrids of hybrids where there are at least three known species in the progeny. But even this type of crossing is still only a F1 hybrid; complicated, true, but still F1. What interests me more is the prospect of the F2 hybrids, and what lies beyond them by judicious back crossing, and this is what will doubtless be done with the aid of *Chrysanthra* to effect the anticipated colour changes.

It is my belief that the definition of 'hybrid' will require significant alteration as it applies to camellias when we get to this stage and I should imagine that we will be forced to go the way of the animal geneticists who have determined that after a certain number of generations of true crossing then the general progeny is itself a TRUE breed. For us where many different cultivars may be used within the single species, this will be rather more difficult than the breeding of Charolais on

Hereford cattle but still the principle is the same if you reduce the idea of individual cultivars to that of individual species, then the resultant outline becomes clearer but what is not clear is how we intend to deal with the classifications.

As an example of what I have in mind, let us take the cultivar 'Charlean.' It is presently classified as an hybrid, but if you look at its ancestry, you will find that it is a true F2, being a cross between *C. hybrid* 'Donation' and back to one of its parents, *C. japonica* 'Donckelarii.' So *C. hybrid* 'Charlean' has three *C. japonica* grandparents and one *C. saluenensis*. But when you examine the features of the plant, what do you see? To all cursory examinations, it appears to be a japonica in growth habit and foliage. Even the blooms have a distinctly japonica cast to them.

It is now widely considered that many of what we classify as *C. japonica* and even more particularly *C. reticulata* are in fact hybrids one way or another but so far back that they are not recognisable by either foliage change or distinctive seed pod changes, from what we regard as the norm of the group in which they are now placed.

So where do we go from here, do we use an arbitrary cut out point say four generations, or do we use foliage shape and type as a benchmark and of course we could say that if the seed pods resemble *reticulata* then that which produced them is *reticulata* or what have you.

All these criteria are unsound, if based on generations, then the mere fact that it is arbitrary is against it. On foliage there is the example of *C. hybrid* 'Charlean,' one generation removed from the Williamsii but with typical *C. japonica*

foliage. So should 'Charlean' be a japonica? And of course seed pods are the most fallible of all. Most retic hybrids have retic type seed capsules, but some, such as 'Lenard Messel,' don't set seed (at least not for me) and others such as 'Grand Jury' have a Williamsii type seed pod, though, so far I have not been able to germinate anything from it.

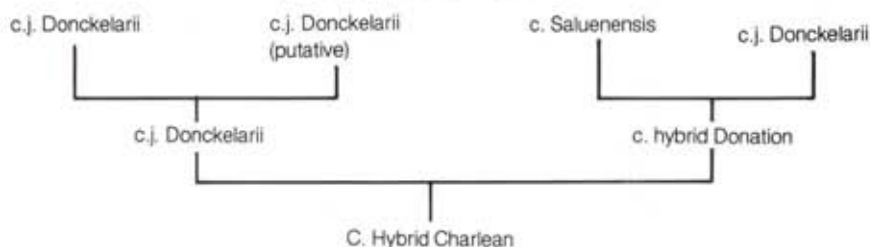
As I have mentioned earlier, this problem is going to get worse, not better as more and more species are added for one specific purpose or another whether it be to influence colour or perfume, floriferousness or shape (form or size). As an instance, I have a number of seedlings from the *C. retic* hybrid 'Brian' (Saluenensis xc. retic., 'Captain Rawes'). All are chance seedlings. Two are the purest of whites (semi-doubles with masses of pollen), one is the red of c.j. 'Moshio' also semi-double, and one is a

very tight, flat pink formal (this I may seek registration for). All of them are something different in Retic., or Retic Hyb. Whites are rare in this group, so are formals. Do they become the basis for new sub group of miniature retics? They could have as little as one quarter retic in their make-up, but then this could also be the maximum of retic in their ancestry. So are they really to be classified as retics?

Maybe a basis for classification would be to use the female (seed) parent of the cultivar as an indication of the necessary species grouping. This is only a suggestion for discussion and should not be taken to be my own preferred position. I don't know what is the correct way out of the impasse, but I do know that the sooner we find one the better.

If you really want a curly one, we could also consider the question of trying to classify chimeras?

Genealogy of 'Charlean'



Show Dates

January 17-18, 1987	Aiken, SC	U of SC, Aiken Campus 171 University Parkway
January 24, 1987	Charleston, SC	Citadel Mall
February 7-8, 1987	Charlotte, NC	Eastland Mall
February 14-15, 1987	Columbia, SC	Columbia Mall
February 21, 1987	Wilson, NC	Parkwood Mall
February 28-March 1, 1987	Wilmington, NC	Independence Mall
March 7-8, 1987	Fayetteville, NC	Cross Creek Mall
March 14-15, 1987	Greensboro, NC	Forum VI, Friendly Center

CUTTING GROWN CAMELLIAS

Dr. T.E. Pierson

Hurstville, Australia

This is a look at an alternate propagating material suitable for not only camellias, but also for rhododendrons, conifers, proteaceae and many other woody plants.

The ideal material for the striking of cuttings has always been held to be one that is coarsely granular, will hold water on the granule surface, but not remain wet, be sterile, or sterilisable, will hold air pockets by virtue of the granule size, be readily available and easy to handle. It was previously thought that the closest possible approach to all these factors was possessed by a coarsely granular sand, mixed with peat moss. This performs quite well, but it can become waterlogged with the time taken by some of the slower plants. And of course sterilising such a mix can be quite involved.

Some thirty years ago, when putting down some camellia cuttings, I was using this sand-peat mix when I literally ran out of supplies. Casting around, I decided to use some very finely crushed fly ash which had been thought to be too fine for drainage and was being used as a filler in concrete. The ash had come from the use of coal in a slow combustion stove, and was all too readily available. In fact, it formed a rather unattractive heap whilst it waited to be used.

Small polyethylene sachets were filled with ash, wetted, and a cutting placed in each one. The whole was then sealed in stacked rows in a clear polyethylene tent, and placed in full sun. In other words, I did everything wrong. I really did not expect much in the way of results, but I had the cuttings, and no other way of disposing of them. Within four weeks, I had a ninety-five percent strike rate of small rooted plants. The roots were up to

two inches in length, and had the start of new growth from the tips. These cuttings were all of *C. japonica* or *C. sasanqua*. At that time I did not know that *C. reticulata* could be struck from cuttings. I know now that it can be.

Since then, I have routinely used fly ash as the material of preference for the striking of all cuttings. A granule size of about the head of a match seems to be the optimum. Pots are filled with the ash, thoroughly wetted and allowed to drain. The cuttings, be they what they may be, are dibbled into the surface till the pot is full but not over-crowded. The whole pot is then either put into a polyethylene bag and sealed or placed under misting.

Some years ago I mentioned this procedure to one of the St. George Branch newsletters, and a nurseryman from the Nowra District of N.S.W. took it up and tried it, using a fly ash made from the burning of Lithgow N.S.W. coal. Not only is he achieving an unbelievable strike rate for his cuttings, but he has taken the process one step further and uses a large proportion of the ash in his potting mix. Root growth has to be seen to be believed. In fact, the results are so good that the process has spread to other nurserymen and it is now being used in the propagation of conifers, azaleas and even to strike cuttings of macadamia nut.

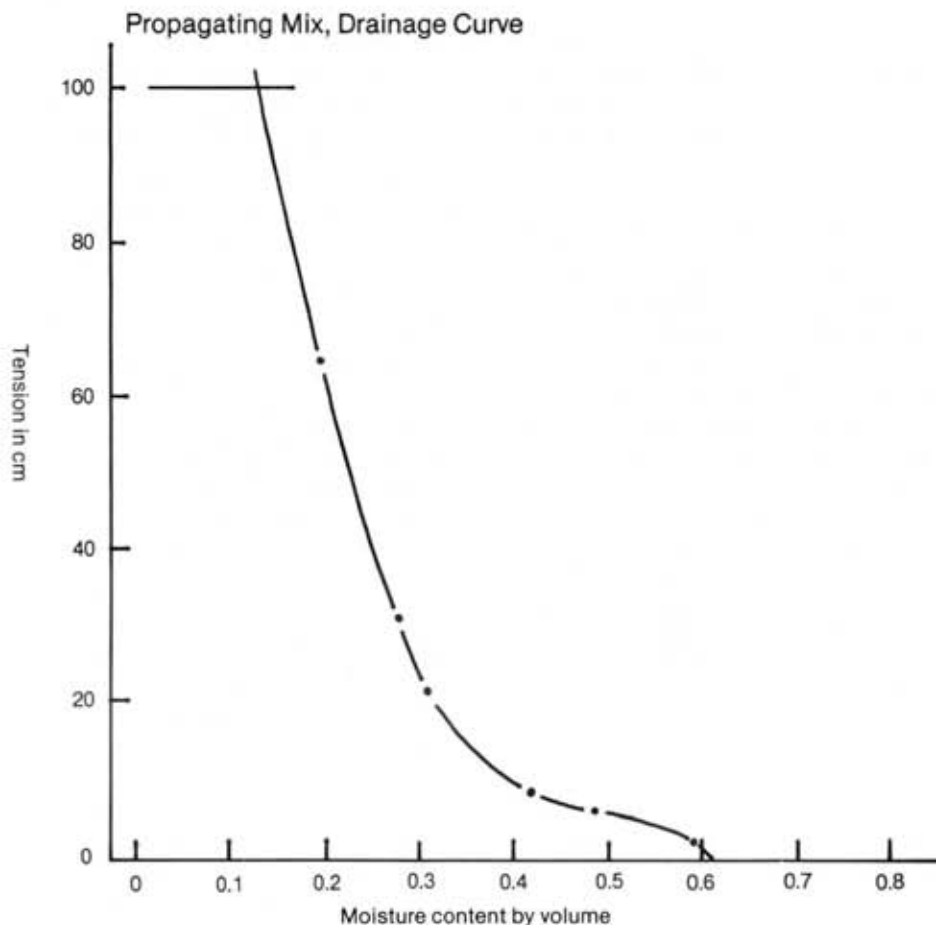
From my own experience, the best results come from using the ash produced by the Lithgow coal, but good results have also been obtained by other members of the St. George Branch of the A.C.R.S. by using coal from the south coast of N.S.W. The qualifying factor seems to be the granule size. Bottom heat is not necessary. I have struck both camellias and azaleas in mid-winter. The azaleas take four weeks before they can

be potted on.

Graham Oke, the Bomaderry nurseryman who first followed my lead and experimented with this process, has been instrumental in having the attached analysis prepared. He has passed it on to me. Its inclusion may allow someone to determine whether it is the physical properties that are doing the job or whether

there is some hidden chemical clue I have missed. In any case, it works like no other has ever done before it.

The following drainage curve was prepared by Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory Pty, LTD. General comments are by Mr. Simon Leake, Managing Director of this laboratory.



GENERAL COMMENTS:

Density 0.59 grams/cc

Air entry at 10cm, 20%

Air entry at 20cm, 50%

This is a near perfect prop mix physically, only the moisture holding ability at higher tensions could be improved. Try some bark fines, say 10% by volume (composted only).

Note the large drainage at 0 to 10 cm of tension. This is very important in a prop mix and you must maintain it at all cost!

The chemical properties are good as well. Note the ability to supply all the major nutrients in the right proportion. Surprisingly good material chemically.

My Love Affair With Camellias (Part 2)

Elliott Brogdon

Columbia, SC

The latter half of the 1940s was good to Lawanda and me. I had a good job, my nursery at Poverty Center Plantation was doing very well, and we were settled in our new home with our first born son. I even had a bank account.

In 1950 the bubble burst. The Korean War was going full blast and Uncle Sam said that he needed me. He recalled me to active duty. With only two week's notice I had to report to Connally Air Base in Waco, Texas. It was necessary to provide for my family and to take care of the hundreds of things that have to be done before making such a major move! Our new home was rented but occupancy was delayed until I could find a house in Waco and send for my family. The camellias at Poverty Center were left to fend for themselves. Furniture and belongings would be shipped to a new address in Waco. It was hectic to say the least. When I left Columbia, I knew that it would be rough for Lawanda and me. On the way out of town, I stopped by Poverty Center Plantation to check on my plants. Before leaving the nursery, I potted two camellias in gallon cans, a 'Debutante' and a 'Pink Perfection' and gently put them in the car. They were my security blanket.

Lawanda and Elliott Jr. joined me in Waco about six weeks later. I had found a house for us to live in and a place for my two camellias. The winter of 1950 was bitter cold in Waco. One blue Norther after another came screaming across the flat prairie from Canada. My two camellias spent more time in the house than outside. Then in May 1951 I was given an opportunity to transfer to Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama. The weather in Selma was more to my liking. I jumped at the chance. I had attended college at Auburn University, so it was almost like

going home. Once again we packed up everything, including my two camellias, and headed for Selma.

We were fortunate to get base housing, so this move didn't mean a separation. Base housing consisted of a converted barracks divided into three apartments. Each apartment had a large screened-in porch. I immediately recognized the potential of this porch as an ideal place for camellias in containers. A quick weekend trip to Mobile and the porch had approximately twenty blooming size camellias in containers.

This was my first experience with bare rooted camellias in containers. The camellias from Mobile had been grown in a sort of black clay that became like a rock when it was dry. I washed all this dirt off in a large tub and replanted them in containers in a mixture of woods dirt, leaf mold and peat moss. All the plants that I had purchased up until this time had been balled and burlapped. My mixture worked fine as all the plants grew beautifully and bloomed perfectly every winter. My last winter in Selma, 1953, was mild and I had so many blooms till I put on a one-man camellia show at the officers' club. Here again, I had never heard of a camellia show. As far as the show went, it wasn't much, about 75 blooms. But I was proud as a new father showing off his children!

I had been a fighter instructor in F-51s at Selma, instructing Americans, French and Thai cadets. I was also a prime candidate for an overseas tour. In May 1953 it came: orders for Korea! I packed Lawanda and our two sons and sent them to West Palm Beach, Florida, to stay until my overseas tour was over. My mother-in-law agreed to keep my camellias at her home in Columbus, Georgia. Again, it meant another separation from the two things I loved most, my

family and my camellias! By the time I arrived in Japan, my orders had been changed. I was not assigned to a unit in Korea, but re-assigned to an F-86 fighter squadron in Japan, Johnson Air Force Base, 40 miles north of Tokyo.

When I packed my bags for the trip to the Far East, I included all my ACS yearbooks, a copy of H. Harold Hume's "Camellias in America" and "Azaleas and Camellias" and G.G. Gerbing's "Camellias." These were to be my security blanket as well as something I could read and study over and over again. They proved to be invaluable. Almost immediately I read every article in every yearbook that pertained to camellias in Japan. In the 1948 and 1949 issues of the ACS yearbooks, there were articles by Ralph Peer which were particularly interesting in as much as he referred to Mr. Minagawa's Nursery in Saitama Prefecture (County). Since I was stationed in Saitama Prefecture, I decided to pay Mr. Minagawa a visit the first day I had off. The day soon arrived. I got directions to the small town he lived in from the English speaking workers at the Air Base. Unlike Mr. Peer, who travelled by car and guide, I was going to travel by train by myself. The train trip was a complicated procedure as it was necessary to travel into downtown Tokyo, then change trains several times in order to back track to my destination. I spoke not a single word of Japanese then, so my problems were compounded. Fortunately, I had an early start that rainy, Sunday morning. The trip was almost a disaster, even though I had directions given me by several Japanese. These directions proved to be confusing as I would present one set of directions to one conductor and another set to another conductor. No two sets of directions were the same! Despite taking the wrong train several times and having to back track, I arrived in the small town about two o'clock in the afternoon. I immediately

went to the police station to ask directions to Mr. Minagawa's. The police were extremely courteous and one of them accompanied me to Mr. Minagawa's house about a mile away.

Mama San came to the front porch and the policeman evidently told her that I was there to visit Mr. Minagawa. The policeman then departed and I was left with Mr. and Mrs. Minagawa to discuss camellias, even though I didn't speak Japanese and they didn't speak English. I opened my camellia yearbook and they were amazed to see a picture of Mr. Minagawa. Evidently it was a picture taken in his early years and given to Ralph Peer, because the man I was talking to was very old. That picture broke the ice. All of a sudden, the porch was full of teenagers and young children oh-ing and ah-ing at Mr. Minagawa's picture in such a prestigious book. I was served tea and cookies by a very gracious host and hostess. One of the children brought me a huge book of water colors of camellias and sasanquas. I thumbed through the many sheets of watercolors and recognized quite a few camellias, 'Kumasaka,' 'Pink Perfection,' 'Akebono,' 'Monjusu' and others. The water colors were the most beautiful ones I had ever seen. I assumed that these pictures of camellias were the ones he propagated when the nursery was in operation.

After refreshments, Mr. Minagawa took me on a tour of what had been the largest nursery in Japan. It was not a farm and a large one, by Japanese standards, perhaps eight or ten acres. It was now used to grow vegetables and rice. On a hill overlooking the farm, were his stock camellias, all very large, old bushes, planted in rows and well maintained. He no longer grew camellias for the Yokohama Nursery Co., the chief exporter of camellias to the US. But all his plants were still tagged. I suppose these tags were the names of the varieties, but

they were in Japanese so this is only an assumption.

One thing really surprised me, Mr. Minagawa showed me perhaps two dozen rose bushes that some one had sent him. Each bush bore a tag from Armstrong Nursery in the US. He seemed to be more proud of them than of his camellias. It was evident from the size of his farm that he had been a giant propagator of camellias before the war.

Late in the afternoon, Mr. Minagawa accompanied me back to the train station and gave instructions to a young man to guide me back to Tokyo. From Tokyo I made it back to the air base without difficulty.

To this day, I cannot fathom how Ralph Peer found this nursery. He had travelled by car into one of the most remote corners of Japan. Roads were almost impossible, narrow, winding, full of chuck holes and language barrier intolerable. I am convinced that Ralph Peer was the greatest camellia Bird Dog that ever lived!

About eight months after I arrived in Japan, Lawanda and our two boys came over. While we were in Japan, Lawanda and the children and I were able to travel extensively. One trip to Kyoto, the ancient capitol of Japan, and to Nara, was especially memorable. The gardens surrounding the 1200-year-old imperial palace were immaculate, and the shrines and gardens in Nara, which is even older than Kyoto, were interesting also. A camellia in an old temple in Kyoto caught my eye, and if I ever get back there, I will make arrangements to have a scion sent to the US. The camellia tree was huge, and was covered with miniature pink and white variegated blooms that resemble rose buds. Evidently, the blooms never open fully and it is a late bloomer. It would be a show stopper at one of our late camellia shows.

In 1956, I returned to the US. After a

tour of duty in Minnesota, one in Massachusetts and one in Korea, my luck finally took a turn for the better, camelliawise! I was assigned to Langley Air Force Base.

While at Langley, I rooted camellias with all the energy I could muster. I had so many tin cans with camellias in them till my back yard looked like a junk yard. I lived in constant fear that the Base Commander would make me vacate quarters or get rid of the tin cans! Finally, after three years, I was assigned to Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, SC, only 30 miles from Columbia. I moved into my own home in Columbia with my family and commuted to Sumter. Of course I brought all those cans of camellias from Langley. I was in hog heaven!

One night after arriving home from work, I picked up the local newspaper and read about a camellia show that was being held at A.C. Flora High School. The year was 1966. I drove over there. The admission was only 50¢. I was flabbergasted! I had never seen camellias like these! It was something to behold! I took my time and examined every bloom, and there were over 1000. I started writing down names of flowers that appealed to me. Never had I seen such beauty! Never did I suspect that there were so many varieties. As soon as I could tear myself away, I went home and got Lawanda. She was almost as excited as I was at the sight of these blooms. That show built a fire under me. I can even remember a few of the people I met: Jim Pinkerton, Helen and Foster Bush, Dr. Herbert Racoff and Jack Teague. All these people would become my very good friends, a friendship that has lasted till this day!

The following weekend, I headed for James Island. With my list of camellias, Eric Main filled my order until I couldn't get any more plants in the pickup. I began grafting my old camellias and sasanquas.

I was off and running!

As I look back over the years, I have seen camellias change in size from 3 and 4 inches to 6 and 7 inches. I have seen variegated blooms become more common and more popular. Reticulatas have become the rage of many. For me, camellias have had a profound impact on my life. They gave me comfort when I was separated from my family. They

uplifted my spirits when things looked bleak and dreary. They have fostered friendships that will last the rest of my life. For 50 years I have had a love affair with this beautiful flower. Never has it waned, and I know that it will continue to reward me. After all, a love affair such as this is not a one night stand, but a lifelong commitment!

QUIT GROWING CAMELLIAS, NOT ME.

Robert Fowler

Lumberton, NC

Doris and I were returning home from Greensboro, the last show of the season for us, the weekend of March 8th and 9th, when I became ill. About the second week in April, we had a severe infestation of Eastern Tent caterpillars in Lumberton and most of Robeson County. Their cycle lasts from six to eight weeks. Their primary source of food is young tender leaf growth of sweet gum and certain species of oak. They can completely defoliate a large tree in a relatively short time. In May, we had a severe hail storm, that struck Lumberton, producing stones as large as tennis balls. This lasted for about 10 to 15 minutes. About four weeks later, we had more hail about the size of marbles, but this did not last very long.

You are probably wondering by now what relationship does illness, caterpillars and hail have in common with camellias. I can tell you, for me, one time around is enough. The illness of about six months duration, included numerous doctor visits and three hospital admissions, one time for surgery. I am happy to say, I am much better now. The caterpillars, after their main source of food is exhausted, will go to some types of other plant growth. My

camellias were still in the greenhouses. So after the sweetgum and oak foliage was gone, the camellias were next. They were selective in the varieties they fed on. The "Tomorrows" were caviar for them. For some reason they did not bother the Retics. The use of insecticides was useless, because of the volume of caterpillars all over town.

The camellia plants were moved out of the greenhouse one Saturday, the latter part of May, by my son. The next day the first hail storm hit. I estimated that I lost 60% of these plants that had been moved outside. Some of these plants were reduced to just the main trunk and a few bare limbs.

The plants left in the greenhouses are ok. The double cover of 4 mil plastic was torn up, but that was to be taken off anyway.

My first thought has been to stop growing camellias, but I am by nature, a person who does not give in to negative thoughts. Today I am more committed to the camellia hobby than ever before.

I will see you at the shows this season.

IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy

Fayetteville, NC

The information has come to me that the originator of the camellia 'Olympic Gold' has obtained a patent on this cultivar. This information puzzles me. But I was puzzled when this camellia was named in the first place and registered! Of course, it is Mr. Piet's prerogative, if he can persuade the patent office to grant a patent on this plant. I thought that a plant patent could be granted to a hybridizer or other plant patent seeker only if he had discovered and asexually reproduced a distinct and new variety of plant. Is this a distinct and new camellia? It certainly does not seem to be, judging from the photographs that I have seen of it and the descriptions I have read. It seems to be nothing more than or different from other "seedlings of chrysanthemum" that I have seen.

The annual meetings of the regional camellia societies in the East seem to be getting bigger and better every year. I was not able to attend either the Gulf Coast or the Mid-South Camellia Society meetings this year but heard about them. They both sound like fabulous week-ends for any camellia person who loves to meet with other camellia people and talk camellias and enjoy fellowship, food and whatever. The Gulf Coast meeting was attended by more than 100 members and guests. It was held in Mobile in early August. The Mid-South Camellia Society, thought not so large a gathering, surely must have been a fun-filled week-end. Those Nashville people are as enthusiastic a group of camellia lovers as you'll find anywhere. The Atlantic Coast Society met in Myrtle Beach again and it was certainly the biggest one yet! There were 165 pre-registrations, and others came in later. There were 10 attending from California and one from Puerto Rico!

The outside camellias seem to be budded up heavier this year than any year I can remember. Not only the large, mature plants, but the 12 inch to 24 inch plants. I have many of these small plants in the yard. Some were replacements for cold killed larger plants and some that the freeze almost got and had to be cut back drastically. Some are container cultivated plants that I have pampered for years in the greenhouse. After being planted outside to bloom or be damned, they have exploded with buds! What other hobby could produce so many surprises!

Dr. Luther Baxter wrote in an article for the newsletter of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley that, "The miracle of plants is that they often grow not always because of the treatment that they receive at the hands of men, but in spite of the treatments." I can agree with him there! I remember one small camellia plant that I jerked out of its pot and threw over my back fence into the swampy woods because it seemed to be dying. It took roots, a new lease on life, and bloomed two years later. Another example of this: My neighbor pruned back severely and dug up a score or more of large, unsightly azaleas in front of his home. He planted smaller, prettier azaleas there. The old tired azalea roots he prepared to dispose of in the trash. His little dog, Sally, for some reason, grabbed one and dashed down the hill with it. A few months later it was found growing happily and healthily by the fence at the bottom of the hill. He will tell you to this day that Sally planted that beautiful azalea there.

For some reason, some people can grow a certain camellia cultivar better than anyone else, and produce better flowers. Usually, this is a grower who does well with all of them. I have in mind

Joe Austin for 'Mona Jury,' Fred Hahn for the 'Elegans' family and Robert Fowler knows how to bloom 'Silver Cloud,' too. This is not an easy cultivar to bloom back here in the East. The plant flourishes for everyone, but the blooms leave a lot to wish for. They would rather bull-nose than not, or go wop-sided or stay small or do something to molest their growers. But not for Fowler! He can bloom 'Silver Cloud' like no one else! I doubt that Mr. Julius N., himself, could bloom 'Silver Cloud' to equal those of Fowler. When he brings one of his good ones to a show, everybody else had better settle for second place. I asked him how he did it, and expected a fertilizer recipe or a weird potting mix. I got nothing of the kind. He told me that the secret is in the buds. He says don't even try to get anything on early buds, those that develop in June and early July. Break them out. He says keep up the fertilizing and make the plant develop late buds. These are the ones that develop well, without bull-nosing. These are the ones which produce those gigantic, gorgeous, show-winning blooms.

Ever now and then, I hear a camellia story that literally amazes me, for one reason or another. A story about 'Gwen-

neth Morey' is one of them. In the 1967 ACS yearbook was a photograph of 'Gwenneth Morey.' I had never seen the flower, but fell for it! It was buttercup yellow throughout the bloom and white on the petal edges. Since I was going to Mobile on a camellia buying spree, I put this camellia at the top of my list. I drove straight to Neal Rogers nursery and asked him if he had 'Gwenneth Morey.' He said: "Yes I do, but I don't believe you want that one." He went on to say that he had several plants in bloom and I could decide for myself whether I really wanted it. He showed me his plants and the blooms, and my bubble of excitement burst! That was the most insipid, unattractive camellia that I had ever seen. I wound up buying 53 plants, but not 'Gwenneth Morey.' Now, the amazing report: A nurseryman Down Under (Australia and New Zealand) writes me that 'Gwenneth Morey' is still proving to be the most sought after camellia. He writes, "When I drive to speaking engagements, I load the car with plants (all G.M.) and I never return with any." Amazing! Are we missing something, or is this a prime example of a camellia that does well over there, but not here?

Cutting Back Camellias

Luther W. Baxter, Jr., Peggy A. Mitchell, and Susan G. Fagan

During the fall of 1983 we had many large field-grown seedlings of *Camellia japonica*. These had been planted in 1968, the plants having grown 18 years in the original planting site.

Often plants get too large and it becomes desirable to cut them back. The question is when. It was decided to cut back five large plants at the beginning of each month, beginning in September and continuing through March. The plants were cut back severely, leaving only stem and trunk tissue, without leaves. Plants which were cut back were scattered randomly throughout 1200 plants. The evaluations were made in July 1984.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All plants cut back in September, October and November died; that is 15 of 15. Part of those cut back in December and January died (about half), while the others recovered, though slowly. Those cut back in February recovered, those cut back in March recovered very well.

From personal experience with several large camellia plants, and from personal communication with other camellia enthusiasts, such as the late C. Norwood Hastie of Magnolia Gardens, cutting back just after flowering is a good practice.

Plants are usually killed when cut back in September, October or November, particularly when the winter following is severe. At other times, when the winter following is not severe (minimum temperature 15 F or higher), they may survive. The physiological state of the plant at the time of cutback may influence survival. For example, a strong plant (with much stored energy in the stems and roots) probably has a better chance of survival than a weak plant.

On the other hand, cut back in September, October and November pro-

bably do not have time to put out new growth, and if they do the new growth may fail to "harden off" satisfactorily for survival. In addition, these plants do not have the added time (September, October, and November) to accumulate energy that is needed for synthesis of compounds (hydrophilic colloids) that enhance winter survival. Plants cut back in December, January, February and March have these additional compounds generated during September, October and November, and thus, they are better able to survive than those cut back earlier.

Cutting back large camellia stems create large wounds susceptible to infection by the dieback fungus, *Glomerella cingulata*. Therefore, it is a good practice to apply a piece of cotton previously soaked in a benomyl suspension (² tablespoon-



Fig. 1 Healthy 8-yr-old *Camellia sasanqua* plant before being cut back.

¹Technical Contribution No. 2588 of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, Clemson University.



Fig. 2 Healthy 8-yr-old *Camellia sasanqua* plant after being cut back. Note benomyl-soaked cotton over cut ends.

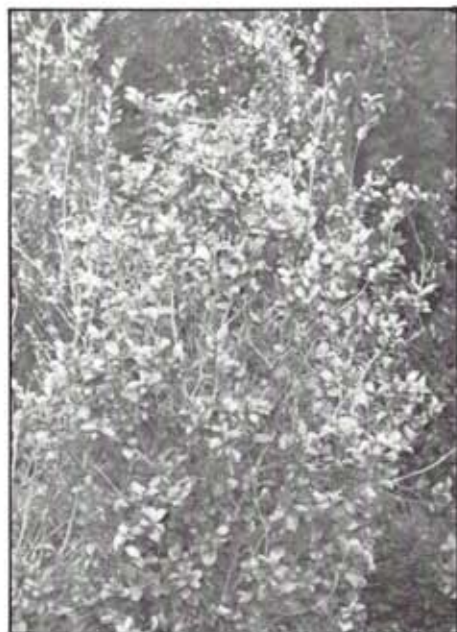


Fig. 3 Recovery of 8-yr-old *Camellia sasanqua* 2 yr after being cut back.

ful/gallon water) to the cut stems and tie it in place. This will give protection against invasion of wounded tissue by the dieback fungus (1, 2).

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate camellia plants before and after cut back. Note cotton on the cut stem-ends in Fig. 2. Figure 3 illustrates a plant of *Camellia*

sasanqua that regenerated growth after cutback in April of 1984.

Our evidence suggests that cutting back camellias in the fall is not a good practice. Previously, evidence was lacking to support this concept. If cutting back becomes necessary, the procedure should take place either in late winter or early spring, based on limited experimental evidence and on personal experience, including advice of camellia personalities, such as the late C. Norwood Hastie.

Since spring is a time when the camellia dieback fungus, *Glomerella cingulata*, is active, it is recommended that cut ends of stems be covered with benomyl-soaked cotton (Figure 2).

In all probability after severe cutting back as shown in Figure 2, there will be no flower buds set the first growing season and none to few the second year.

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Painting Camellia Trunks With Cygon 2E - Update

Oscar T. Tinkle

Portland, OR

In 1965-66 I experimented with Cygon 2E full strength on some 80 Camellia plants growing in my yard and my medium-sized greenhouse. Results at that time were amazing and I wrote an article for the Oregon Camellia Society Bulletin which ended up in the November issue of the Camellia Journal.

In Oregon we usually have a warm spell in February or March that can bring out a batch of scale. I paint Camellia plant trunks after 2 or 3 days of warm sun has produced the scale crawlers. Again in May, and some years in August if scale persists. Through the years a third painting in August was eliminated due to a few plants showing some sign of leaf burn. In one of my experiments I increased the amount of trunk painting to one foot on a 4" diameter trunk of Daikagura and this resulted in considerable leaf burn. I therefore reduced the band width.

After 10 years of painting Camellia trunks I made up a table of band widths relative to trunk diameter which is show below.

A friend of mine in the Oregon Camellia Society, Mr. Cecil Loose, has used the full-strength trunk painting method for over 10 years and has found it less work and has had no damage to his many large Japonica Camellia plants. In general Mr. Loose and myself agree with the arti-

cle on page 37 of the 1973 ACS Yearbook written by Mr. H.H. Tippins, Table 1 Dimethoate, Percentage Control 86%. With nearby neighbors with scale on their Camellia plants I continue to have small infestations but feel that 86% of the battle is won by painting Camellia trunks.

Suggestions and Experiences

In weather of 60 to 80 degrees F. water plants thoroughly before painting full-strength Cygon on their trunks. This reduces chance of leaf burn.

Above 80 degrees F. do not paint Cygon on Camellia trunks. Use Cygon in the cooler months of the year.

In March of 1985 I painted a 3" band of full-strength Cygon on a fine plant of 'Brigadoon.' Again in April, just before leaving for a five months trip, I painted a 3" band on the plant. My daughter told me that within a week the plant started to shed leaves and looked sick. The weather had turned hot after the painting. When I returned from my trip the plant still looked sick but was beginning to put out new growth. As of this date, one year later, the plant is almost fully recovered and has several new shoots of 18" growth. I am relieved as this plant in full bloom is a sight to behold. This experience indicates that perhaps some hybrids are more

Trunk Diameter	Outside Plant Band Width	Inside Plant Band Width
1/2"	1/2"	1/4"
1"	1/2"	1/4"
2"	1"	1/2"
3"	2"	1"
4"	3"	1 1/2"
5"	3 1/2"	2"

Use 1" paint brush with fine bristles.

susceptible to full-strength burn. We need more experimenting with different varieties.

A few years ago Mr. Loose had scale covering his magnificent holly trees with 6 and 8" trunks some 10 to 15' in height. He used full-strength Cygon on the plants' trunks and followed up with a diluted

spray recommended by Cyanamide Co. on the foliage. This work completely eradicated the scale from the trees and five years later no scale has returned. I have eliminated scale on my small holly tree and also eliminated aphid on an 8" Birch by painting 5" bands of full-strength Cygon on their trunks.

CYGON

Cecil W. Loose

Portland, OR

Scale insects are the most destructive insect pest of camellias. They attach to the underside of leaves to draw from the plant's food. Scale excretions on leaves mold and become unsightly sooty black deposits. Cottony covered egg deposits remain unsightly for months or even yearly if sufficiently protected from wind or rain erosion.

Oscar Tinkle experimentally discovered about 1967 Systemic Insecticide Cygon, a thoroughly dependable eradicator of scale when applied undiluted with a small brush to the lower trunks of camellias. To Oscar hundreds of camellia fans nation wide owe so-o-o much for his experimenting and revealing his findings to the American Camellia Society publications, and some have written him their praises and thanks.

Oscar admonishes us to observe very carefully safe guards - impermeable plastic or rubber gloves, and at least a handkerchief over the nose to avoid breathing the vapor. Do read the instructions and warnings of any insecticide or herbicide before launching your attack. But you don't have to look like a man from Mars nor wear a world war gas mask to enjoy the economical, thorough method of applying systemic Cygon directly full strength to the lower trunk of camellias that eradicates scale probably for years. This method has been thoroughly effective in my own experience, also for

eradicating holly scale and aphids seasonally in large birches. James Moonalso applied Cygon to his many plants recently.

If Cygon were so dangerous you would know it would not be available to the general public. Please note that smaller plants ($\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter) only a touch to one side could be enough. Large plants with multiple trunks could be treated with a 2-3" band to each trunk. Large trunks of several inches could be circled with a 4" band. Do be judicious! Do not conclude - if a little is good more would be better, for that has produced some disastrous results, when entire trunks were painted.

In 1983 as a Master Gardner, I concluded something should be done to save camellias from destruction by fans because of scale, and failures of sprays. My chart entitled "Save That Camellia Plant" became attractive to many with scale problems. At our presentations many have copied the information or asked questions. At our Master Gardner Harvest Fair at the Forestry Bldg. last fall a man asked, "Can you tell me what to do for the black soot on my camellias"? A couple walked by looking quickly, and stopped at the chart. The wife immediately began copying the information. Asked across our table, "Do you have

Cont. on Page 22

I Inspect My Plants - With My Motor Running

James H. McCoy

Fayetteville, NC

Editor's Note: In September, a friend came around to see my camellias (plants, that is) and we went down below to where they were summering. I thought that our conversation might make an article, so I hung a portable tape recorder around my neck and switched it on. I worked all right for my voice, but the friend's voice was unintelligible. I went ahead anyway with the article, recording in print my voice only.

"Let's start here with 'Cleve James.' Wow! I've done something right this year. Maybe it's that dose of salts I gave them in the spring. That's what Tom Lee, Carmichael, CA, does to his plants. So I tried it. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 buds - that's just about right for a plant that size. 'Cleve James' is one of Dr. Homeyer's camellias. It gets big. It doesn't need gib. If you don't have it, you ought to get it.

'Coral Challice.' I really need to get that grafted again. If I lose it, I might be out of luck, at least as far as one without variegation is concerned. Joe says that it is a great camellia if you variegates it. I thought that it was pretty good even without variegation. So far, I haven't had much to show for my efforts.

This is 'Col. R.D. Hicks.' I wouldn't take big money for that plant. I got the scion from Gordon Howell. Grafted it and got two plants. I gave one plant to Joe. Mine died soon thereafter. But when Joe's plant bloomed, it was so spectacular till I got a scion from him and grafted it again. Now, it will bloom for me. It's got two buds.

'Gypsy Rose, Solid.' Probably just another formal double. But a friend of mine, you know who, tore it up with variegation. He got a camellia that would stop any camellia grower in his tracks. Haven't heard of it winning any shows yet, but it's bound to before long. It's too unusual and lovely for the judges to ignore.

Here's 'Guy Lennard.' Not many peo-

ple have this one. It's a spiral, formal double, japonica, about 4½ inches. Haven't seen it yet, but will this year. Look at those buds! One at every branch terminal!

'Miss Bessie Beaville.' This is another of Homeyer's. You'd never guess where the scion from this one came from. I can tell you that it didn't come from any where in this country! I don't know much about it. Haven't seen it. But I see that it is a pink, formal double. That's good enough, for the time being anyway. It'll bloom this year.

Here we have 'Brian.' Mac McKinnon from Lugoff, SC, gave me the scion. I saw it at the State Fair in Columbia and fell in love with it. It reminds me of a pink 'Magnoliaeflora.' I have had bad luck with this plant. I put it out in the yard and it almost got killed. Put it back in a container and nursed it back to health. Look at it now. Full of buds!

This camellia is called 'Ailsa James.' I have never seen it. Few people in this country have. It came from New Zealand. If the description is correct, and if it performs well in this country, it should be a camellia to reckon with! It is a rose pink, peony form, almost 6 inches in size, without gib! It's not listed in the 1984 nomenclature book but it is probably a non-retic hybrid. The originator does not know for sure. This plant is well budded, as you can see.

'Donc,' but not just any 'Donc.' This is Ken Blanchard's 'Donc.' He says that it is the best one he's ever seen. The best variegation.

'Akino Yuki.' I don't know anything about that one. I must have liked it when I saw it, if I ever did. Maybe when it blooms this year I'll be able to tell you more about it.

'Dark Nite.' Don't know what I'm doing with this one either. It's supposed to

be a medium crimson peony flower, a non-retic hybrid, I think. Doesn't sound all that great. We'll see before long, won't we!

This one I call 'Kirk's Aibonito.' It's a seedling of mine that bloomed in the yard of my neighbor, Kirk Flannigan. I thought that it was gorgeous! So I grafted it, and wrote on the tag, "Kirk's Aibonito." Aibonito in Spanish means "How pretty." It's budded, so I can evaluate it this year under greenhouse conditions.

'Katie Kelly.' Good ol' 'Katie Kelly.' There's a bunch of them, 5 or 6. Thought one time that I'd propagate it for sale to benefit Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, but have backed away from that idea. Have had more trouble than Paul saw trying to build up a stock. Time and Jack Frost can change the best laid plans of mice and men, I guess.

'Red Crystal,' 3 buds. I believe that there are two 'Red Crystals,' one a retic and one a japonica. I don't know which this one is. I believe that it is the 'Red Crystal' from Australia, seedling of 'Crimson Robe,' but the leaves don't look like a retic.

This is Dr. Habel's seedling 'Linda.' Don't know anything about it, but would bet that it's pale pink to blush.

Just look at this one, 'Sunsong'! Isn't that a beautiful plant! Buds everywhere you look. It's a beautiful flower, too. Well worth such a good name. It too, is a formal double, non-retic hybrid from New Zealand. I don't know how we let the New Zealanders get so far ahead of us in the production of spectacular, outstanding, gorgeous non-retic hybrids. That's where the most beautiful new camellias are coming from these days, unless you're in to retics.

What's this, 'Veiled Beauty'? Buds up like this every year and I never get anything worth looking at! This is the last chance it'll get! If it doesn't do better this year, we'll see what kind of grafting stock

it'll make.

Here's an 'Elegans' of some sort. Yes, 'Elegans Splendor.' Boy, that's an old plant, repotted in 1982! I need to get some gib for these buds.

Now what in the world is this, 'Allie Habel.' Not a single bud on it! I've fooled with this thing long enough. Grafting stock next year.

This looks like a 'Tomorrow.' It is, 'Tomorrow Park Hill.' I don't have the luck with the 'Tomorrows' that I used to have. Maybe this year. Pretty leaves, pretty buds, pretty everything! It's still the number one camellia in my estimation for greenhouse culture.

'Cameron Cooper,' what are you doing in here with the japonicas! I didn't know I had a 'Cameron Cooper' left. Budded up like a Christmas tree, too.

This looks like another 'Tomorrow.' No, it's 'Lemon Honey.' It's a shame that such an insignificant flower was given such a name as that! Maybe it'll do better for me this year with a little more age. It better! It looks like it'd make good grafting stock!

This is a red spiral flower from New Zealand. At least it's supposed to be spiral. I haven't seen any spiral blooms yet, not any *real* spirals. I don't think it's registered or even named.

Here's another 'Tomorrow,' 'Tomorrow, Park Hill Pink.' Ivan Mitchell sent me the scion as 'Park Hill Blush.' It surely isn't blush, but I don't mind. It's as pretty as any 'Tomorrow' I have ever seen. Maybe the culture a 'Tomorrow' gets will determine whether it is Blush or Pink, or something else.

'Donnan's Dream' is going to bloom up a storm this year. I've seen a picture of it and it surely looks good. Bill Donnan is a self-proclaimed formal freak, and I am too. If he likes it enough to let it be named for him, it must be as good as it looks in photos.

Here's 'Lady Eva,' Marvin Jernigan's

introduction. He sent me the scion. I saw a sport of it in Columbia at the State Fair a couple of years ago. I told Marvin that I liked it and he sent me a scion of 'Lady Eva,' not the sport.

'Charles A. Newman' is not well known in this country. It's from Australia. It's a formal and is supposed to get to 5½ inches without gib! There's another formal from Australia named 'Sharon's Blush' which is supposed to get to 140 mm, that's about 5½ inches! I have it too and will check out this claim next year. I really don't doubt it, because, as I said before, those growers Down Under know how to do japonicas and non-retic hybrids.

This one is a *saluenensis* x 'Tiffany' cross from Australia. I don't know whether it has been registered in Australia or not. It surely deserves to be. It's one of the loveliest camellias you're likely to see anywhere. It looks very much like 'Tiffany.' I have bloomed it only one year so far and all the blooms looked like a very full, anemone-form 'Tiffany.' The plant seems to be less dieback prone than 'Tiffany,' though there are many growers here who do not have any trouble growing 'Tiffany.'

Here's 'Dennis Vaughn.' I'll see it bloom for the first time this year. It's from Tallahassee, Florida, and sounds like something everybody ought to grow. Imagine a large, dark red, formal with incurved petals! Can't you just imagine what would happen if Joe got a hold of this one with his 'King Lear'! Come to think of it, what else would anyone want in a camellia, perfume?

Here's 'Rachel Tarpy.' Mighty big plant just to have one bud. I never could get it to produce blooms like those Ab Abendroth brings to shows. I think I'll just quit trying.

See this one? This is Marshall Rhyne's seedling. Marshall gave me the scion years ago, but for one reason or another, last year was the first year it

bloomed for me. I didn't get many good blooms, but those that were good were very, very good! I can see why Marshall kept it. As I recall, it is a formal, white with pink edges and center. A little like 'Desire,' but different. I'm anxious to see what it does this year.

Look at this plant. This is my pride and joy! 'Raspberry Ice.' This is the 3rd year it has bloomed for me, but just look at the buds this time! Usually it only has 5 or 6, hardly enough to really evaluate. Like I said, I don't know what I did different this year, but I sure did something!

Let's go look at my outside plants and come back and look at the other container plants later.

CYGON (cont. from Page 19)

camellias?", he responded, "Yes, I would pull them out, but she likes them." Thankful to have helped many to solve a serious problem.

Am convinced that scale is even a more serious problem in the east where they have had to spray at least three times a season only to have scale reappear every year. No doubt several hatches are produced in the warmer areas, so systemic Cygon brought blessed relief to so-o-o many. Thanks again to Oscar Tinkle, 235-0817. If you should have questions later please phone Oscar, the one who knows from experience. Any questions?

THE NATIVES (cont. from Page 5)

I grow several varieties of seedlings of native azaleas each year, and each year, as earlier propagated plants come into bloom, I am more and more intrigued by the thrill of seeing what the human eye has never beheld before! The variability among plants grown from seed, from the same seed pod, is incredible. Why don't you give native azaleas a try, and see for yourself? But I warn you, if you don't want a new love in your life, don't fool with the Natives!

O tome - Pink Perfection - Frau Minna Seidel

T.J. Savage, Wirlinga, N.S.W.

This delightful, small to medium sized, soft pink, formal double Camellia has remained a favourite, both for garden display as well as for floral arrangement, ever since it was introduced to the western world from Japan over 100 years ago, and plants of this age exist in both America and Europe.

As is usual with popular Camellias having a long history, it has picked up a few synonyms along the way and, for a time, there was some confusion as to what was its original valid name.

The earliest record of a name for this variety yet located is that of 'O tome' published in the "Honzo Zufu" of Iwazaki in 1828. O tome is the Japanese word for Maiden which, being the connotation of youth, freshness and innocence, is a more suitable translation than that of "Virgin," which has so often been used.

A considerable number of Japanese cultivars of Camellias have "o tome" as part of their names, such as 'Shiro-o tome;' 'Beni-o tome;' 'o tome-shibori;' 'Tobiiri-o tome;' and 'Fuiro-o tome.' These are in the small to medium range of formal doubles and are sometimes referred to as the "o tome group." As some of these have other ways of reading the Japanese name characters, such as "Hi-o tome" for 'Beni-o tome;' "Haku-o tome" for 'Shiro-o tome' and "Shibori-o tome" for 'O tome-shibori, some confusion existed, particularly in America, where the cultivar 'O tome-shibori' became erroneously named 'O tome' and "O tome Pink."

In Japan 'O tome' also became known as "O tome-tsubaki" (Maiden Camellia) and "Usu-o tome" (Fair Maiden or Pale Maiden). The Yokohama Nursery Co. listed it as "O tome (Usu-o tome)" in their 1895 catalogue and it subsequently

arrived in both America and Australia as "Usu-o tome" where it was soon found to be identical to "Pink Perfection" and "Frau Minna Seidel."

The name "O tome-tsubaki" (Maiden Camellia) was used in Japan in an attempt to specifically distinguish it from the other "O tomes." The first listing of this name in its transliterated form was in Satomi's "Camellia Varieties of Japan," 1956.

'O tome' was first imported into Europe by the German Nursery firm of Traugott Jacob Seidel of Dresden who named it "Frau Minna Seidel" and first listed it in their 1883 catalogue. Under this name it spread throughout the Camellia growing areas of Europe and, to some extent, America.

In America it was early imported into California, as a plant has been identified at Hood near Sacramento, that is believed to have been planted in 1875. However, in America it received the synonym by which it is generally known in that country, "Pink Perfection." The earliest record located of the publication of this name is in Manning's "Plant Buyer's Index" ed. 3 of 1931 where W.B. Clarke & Sons, San Jose, California is given as the supplier. Domoto's Nursery, California were also known as importers of this Camellia under the name of "Hime-o tome" (Pretty Maiden) and were one of the first nurseries to distribute it under the name "Pink Perfection."

In America it also received other synonyms and pseudonyms in "Lacy Pink;" "Pink Pearl;" "Lee E. Markley;" "Dixie" and "Goishi." "Lacy Pink" was first used by McIlhenny in his list "600 Varieties of Camellias," 1937 as a "flesh pink sport of Pink Perfection." However, it proved indistinguishable and lapsed in-

to synonymy. The name "Lacy Pink" also became a synonym for 'Hishikaraito.'

"Pink Pearl" was also included by McIlhenny in his 1937 list. In fact "Lacy Pink;" "Pink Perfection;" "Pink Pearl" and "O tome" were all listed in this catalogue as separate varieties. However, the "O tome" was not the true variety but would seem to have been a form of 'O tome-shibori,' while "Pink Pearl" is given as "Light pink. Ivory white bud in center of bloom," and, in Australia, had been separated out under the name "Badgen's Beauty," given to it in the Badgen's Nursery Catalogue of 1895, while Fendig, 1951 "American Camellia Catalogue" listed "Burgdorf Beauty" as a synonym for "Pink Pearl."

It is considered that the form "Pink Pearl" is too unstable to warrant a separate varietal name and this and its synonyms should all be reduced to synonyms of 'O tome.'

The name "Lee A. Markley" first appeared in the Fruitland Nursery Catalogue for 1943-44, p. 20 while "Dixie" was published as a synonym for "Pink Perfection" in the "Camellia Digest" 1(3), 1943; but this is in error as 'Dixie' was used as early as 1931 in the Glen St. Mary Nurserie's "Azaleas and Camellias" p.5, for a different cultivar and is a valid name in its own right.

The use of the name 'Go-ishi' as a synonym for the cultivar 'O tome' as "Pink Perfection" (Fendig, 1951, "American Camellia Catalogue") is erroneous as 'Go-ishi' is an old Japanese variety, (Ito 1879, "Chinka-shu") and is a deep pink, double with definite white spots, as its name would suggest. 'Go-ishi' or "Go Stones" is a game similar to Checkers, with black and white pebbles on a marked board, the variegation of the Camellia being likeness to the variegation on the board during a game.

To wrap it up, information at present available gives the following results in order of date:

'O-tome', 1828, Valid Name
Frau Minna Seidel, 1883, European synonym
Usu-o tome, 1885, Japanese synonym
Badgen's Beauty, 1895, Old Australian synonym
Pink Perfection, 1931, American synonym
Pink Lacy, 1937
Pink Pearl, 1937
Lee A. Markley, 1943
Burgdorf Beauty, 1951
O tome-tsubaki, 1956

"Go-ishi" and "Dixie" are pseudonyms.

It has received the "William E. Wylam Miniature Award" in 1982 and the "National Camellia Hall of Fame Award" in 1978 as "Pink Perfection."



Show chairmen like to see these people show up: Parker Connor, Mildred Robertson and Donna Sheppard.

TOM'S TIDBITS

Thomas Lee

Carmichael, CA

It's summertime but the livin' ain't easy, to paraphrase the song. As I write on the 3rd of August the temperature is hovering around the 100 mark. Here in Sacramento only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun to work on camellias. (To steal another song). But I guess you all know what I'm talking about, what with your drastic heat and severe water shortage. I sincerely hope there is enough water to save the camellias.

I would like to tell about a Valley Knudsen plant which I transplanted from a tub to the soil next to the east wall of the house. The exterior of the house is stucco and three feet from the wall is a concrete mowing strip. This spring all the leaves came out dead white. Not a trace of green was visible. Several friends assured me that I had a severe case of leaf virus. Suspicious of the wall, I took Ph readings next to it and got 8.3. I then got some Ortho Greenol Liquid Iron 6.3% and applied several gallons of double strength solution next to the wall and the mowing strip. Lo and behold, in two weeks new growth started appearing and it was green. Then the older leaves started slowly turning green. Some of the leaf edges were severely burned due, I suppose, to the lack of chlorophyll. In retrospect, I vaguely remember the contractors dumping sheetrock pieces and other junk along the foundation trench. Right now that plant has a generous quota of plump buds. Apparently the roots had gone to the wall and the severe alkalinity prevented the plant from getting any iron. The Greenol, being fairly acidic, neutralized the alkali.

Speaking of buds, all the Sacramento growers are commenting on the size of the buds this year. One renowned grower stated his buds were so advanced that he

was not going to fertilize for the rest of the year. Then he tried to sell me the Golden Gate Bridge. My own buds are so big that if I gib them they won't fit on the winners table! I suspect the cycles of extreme heat then a week or so of moderate weather is the cause. I'm into a third growth cycle on many of my camellias. However, a lot of plants have growths where the leaves don't open, sorta like a bullnosed bloom. I don't know if it is the 100 plus heat or spider mites that causes the problem.

Bob Ehrhart started a nice idea this summer. He calls it a Camellia Forum. We meet every other Tuesday at different Bay Area growers houses at 9:00 am. After a round table discussion, we visit the garden of the host. It has been a great experience for me to see and hear what growers such as Dave Feathers, Ken Hallstone and Jack Osegueda are doing, how they grow their plants and listen to some of their hints and kinks. In addition, it has been a great way to know the Bay Area growers away from the tension of shows. Of interest to me is the fact that the Bay Area, which is much colder than Sacramento, is way behind us in bud size. One can even see the difference in buds from the warm side of the Berkeley Hills to the cooler side.

One final thought. Wouldn't it be wonderful if some of the research people could, by using some of the exotic new analyzers now available, discover what hormone triggers flower bud formation. This could let the hybridizers get blooms in one or two years from seedlings instead of the usual three to five years. Go to it fellows and gals!

Eating One's Way Through New Zealand and Australia

Boyd McRee

Conroe, TX

A group of nine Americans, including Lorene and myself, toured New Zealand and Australia during the month of September, 1986. The entire trip was planned by Tom Perkins of Brookhaven, MS, and to whom we affectionately referred to as "Godfather."

On the surface, our purpose was to attend the International Camellia Society's Congress in Sidney, Australia, September 14-19. However, we attended and judged flowers in Hamilton and Christchurch, New Zealand, visited enumerable fine camellia gardens and nurseries and participated in two regular meetings of Camellia Societies in Adelaide and Melbourne. There was no way to describe the gardens and nurseries. They have hundreds of varieties we don't grow and many we can't grow. My garden diminished each time I visited one while I grew larger and larger. We feasted on camellias to the point, I personally, did not wish to look at another bloom for at least a year.

We landed in Auckland, New Zealand on Thursday, August 28, after losing a day by crossing the International Dateline. We spent the next 30 days trying to make up that last day by eating. Lorena and I succeeded admirably as I gained 12 pounds and she 8. We had heard that their economy was poor and we all agreed to help out by eating as much milk, cream, butter and fat meat as possible. Springtime was there and all stock were rolling fat. Of the 150 million sheep reported, we saw at least 100 and I believe we ate several plus venison, beef, lobster, etc.

At each city or stop, we were met by local, well-known residents who acted like they thought that each of us had made out our Will to them. We were rushed from garden to garden, tea to tea, lunch

to dinner, after dinner and our rooms were laden with fruit and candies. I ate large quantities of kiwi fruit and others not grown in America. I was particularly partial to "passion fruit."

Their teas were not limited to *Camellia sinensis*. Our cups were half-filled with rich cream before topping with *sinensis*. This was accompanied by a fine array of pastries including their famous scones laden with Devon cream. Both lunches and dinners were followed by tea and Pavlova, a concoction of meringue, cream and goodies that was so light, one never gave a thought to third helpings. They even took us to a Maori feast one evening where all of the food was cooked over fumeroles and I never knew kangaroo tasted so good.

The evening before we left, we were taken to Phillips Island south of Australia to see the penguins come in to their nests in the sand hills. They leave their nests at 1:30 each morning and swim out to sea as far as 50 miles seeking fish. They hobble up on the beaches at exactly dusk each evening so full they can hardly waddle. I thought -- "except for the Grace of Go, there comes me."

But isn't it wonderful to be home and find that I am hungry for my own garden, as poor as it is and I couldn't wait to visit it? The next time I go to New Zealand and Australia, I am going alone. I don't wish for anyone to say -- "watch your weight."

Camellia Growers On Edge?

Editor's Note: Yes, I believe all camellia growers are on edge about this time every year, waiting for their plants to start blooming. We asked several of our good growers to tell us which 3 camellias they were looking forward most to see bloom this year. Here are some responses:

1. Ray Watson, Greensboro, NC:

'Dawn's Early Light.' I've heard so much about this bloom. It must be something!

'Ray Watson, Var.' Why would I like to see this bloom? I know that Joe Austin can grow this one, but so far, I can't. Oh, well ---.

'Silver Lace.' I like to see my wife happy, and she loves the big white japonicas.

2. John Terry, Ft. Walton Beach, FL:

'Black Lace.' Most people look forward to seeing the new varieties bloom. I try to develop better strains from older varieties, and put more virus into plants that are difficult to variegate. One such variety is 'Black Lace,' which I grafted with several different varieties.

As to the new ones to bloom for me this year, I am looking forward to seeing 'Pleasant Memories.' It is a healthy vigorous plant. If I can do as well with it as Dr. Reeves Wells from Panama City, look out!

I also have a plant of 'Dawn's Early Light' that shows good promise.

3. Gus Dubus, Savannah, GA:

'Elegans Champagne.' To us this is the most gorgeous flower that we have seen in our 35 years of camellia interest. Words fail us for description!

'Gus Menard.' The formation and unusual greenish cast just speak to us! This flower, which inclines to be somewhat flat, can and does cast rabbit ears that just send you!

'Elegans Supreme.' This again is a gorgeous flower that has everything. It has color, variegation, formation, rabbit ears, petaloids and everything else that

goes to make it beautiful and a show winner.

4. Rupie Drews, Charleston, SC:

'Miss Charleston, Var.' Being from Charleston, I don't have a choice. The contrasting red and white variegation of this bloom is truly outstanding.

'Mark Allen, Var.' Another Charleston origin. The slender petals and mass of petaloids make this a unique bloom. I wish the judges would rate this variety as highly as I do.

'Mathotiana Supreme, Var.' I've had more of these on the head table than any other in the last several years. The only scion ever requested from me by Joe Austin and Fred Hahn, --- 'nuff said!

5. Vi Stone, Baton Rouge, LA:

'Holly Bright,' because of foliage.

'John Hall,' Apricot color?

'Dahlohnega,' Canary!

6. Dr. Olin Owen, Charlotte, NC:

'Buddy Bills.' Mine has only slight variegation. Needs much more.

'Margaret Davis, Picotee.' Hoping to get a much nicer bloom. Disappointed to date.

'Seedling #19,' Formal double, mostly white. I am looking forward to more size and possibly more pronounced color.

7. Marion Edwards, Jacksonville, FL:

'Juliana Regina.' Japonica, very large, white, anemone form with large and high petaloid center. Strong grower.

'Scented Gem.' Non-retic hybrid, miniature, semi-double, fuchsia pink, with white petaloids. Sweet fragrance.

'Marion Edwards.' Retic hybrid, 'Crimson Robe' x 'Arch of Triumph.' Very large, bright red, semi-double, with great rabbit ears. It's also a good seed setter.

8. Marvin Jernigan, Warner Robins, GA:

I have about 50 hand pollinated seedlings in bud that I am on edge waiting for them to bloom, especially 2 of them:

J-10, a retic cross from 'Terrell Weaver' x 'Nuccio's Ruby.' If it does as well as it did last year, it will be one of the super flowers! The other is J-010. It bloomed for the first time last blooming season. Just one bloom, but it was outstanding. Among the named camellias, I always look forward to 'Ville' to bloom. If I could have only one camellia, it would be this one. I have a large plant adjacent to a 'Donck.' I am always amazed at the number of flowers on both plants that are alike. The next one would be 'Lady Eva.' We won two best-in-show awards with this one last year. I hope that it will repeat. Another we won best-in-show with was 'Elizabeth Weaver.'

9. Paul Dahlen, Aiken, SC:

'Tomorrow, Pink Hill.' A very dependable bloomer, good formation, good size and lovely color. Always a knockout.

'Elegans Splendor.' Excellent formation and texture. Gorgeous color and good size. A head table winner.

'Jean Pursel.' Outstanding size, unpredictable formation and color make this one a flower I eagerly look forward to seeing. I believe that this is the best hybrid yet!

10. Jean Comber, Pensacola, FL:

'Cherries Jubilee.' When we got back home from Myrtle Beach, we had a pretty red bloom by our back steps. John gets

all excited about new varieties and can't wait to see them. 'Cherries Jubilee' came up to his expectations.

'Sawada's Dream' is one of our favorites. It is such a pretty pink and a good bloomer. Have been busy trying to disbud it.

'Florence Stratton' is another. This is always a beautiful delicate pink. It has been in the ground for several years and has survived our "Siberian" winters.

11. Now for my own:

'Sun Song.' I remember last year that this cultivar bloomed for the first time and literally set me on fire! It had only a few blooms on it and I can't remember much more about it. I am on edge to see what it was about this one that pleased me so. It is loaded this year.

'Raspberry Ice.' This one has bloomed for me two years already. I just have to hover over the plant, admiring the blooms and wondering how such an intensely beautiful flower, such a joyful, happy flower, such a different flower could be so ignored by the camellia people! Of course, the main reason is that it has never been registered!

'Marshall Rhyne's seedling.' This one has previously bloomed and I thought at the time that it was a lovely, different bloom, worthy of registration. I want to see it again.



Seldom photographed, but formidable competitors at many shows here in the East: Doris and Robert Fowler.

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We want to preserve this picture for posterity. Lover Boy lives up to his nickname. Son Hackney hugs Sudie Blanchard and Delores Edwards.

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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