

Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Gypsy Rose Var.

Bloom grown by
Joe Austin

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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COVER PHOTO

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Our cover camellia is *Gypsy Rose Var.* This magnificent bloom missed the head table only because it opened in Joe Austin's greenhouse on one of those rare January weekends when he was not attending a camellia show. GYPSY ROSE was introduced by E. R. Sebire of Wandin North, Victoria, Australia, in 1979. This is the variegated form, mixing white with a rich dark red. GYPSY ROSE VAR. is a formal double, with one of the most prominent and spectacular center buds in the entire camellia world. Photo by Jim Darden.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

RICHARD L. WALTZ
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Dear Fellow Camellia Growers:

The hot summer has fallen on Baltimore. The three H's (Hazy, Hot & Humid) are really in charge of our weather. This time of the year it is difficult to get things in gear to make sure our plants are given the best care and feeding to produce those large blooms that we all remember from the show last year. However, it is very important to prepare our plants for the fall shows - which are closer than you may realize. Please make every effort to attend as many shows as possible in your area; they need your support.

Big plans are being finalized for the Eighth Annual Convention of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in Myrtle Beach, S. C. on October 2 & 3, 1987. There a lot of good times to be had and all of your friends will be there. The detailed schedule of events can be found elsewhere in the publication and a registration letter will be mailed to each member shortly.

Briefly, the convention format will be the same as in the past. We will start with a Pool Party on Friday night-Country & Western theme and appropriate dress requested. Saturday morning, Bloody Mary Party followed by the General Business Meeting. Saturday evening we will have the annual banquet followed by an auction. Members are requested to bring plants

or other material for the auction to help support the Society.

If you have never attended the annual meeting, you are missing a lot. Not only will you be brought up to date on the latest happenings in the Camellia world, but you will also meet some of the people who are making things happen. The people alone make the trip an enjoyable one.

During the time since our last meeting, we have lost quite a few members of our Society who will be deeply missed. I will not attempt to eulogize any of these members, but I would like each of you to help fill the vacancies left by these departed members. If you are asked to perform a task or take an assignment in this or any other Camellia Society, you should do everything you can to help out. The need for new and younger members is critical throughout the Camellia group and each of us should make a concerted effort to do what we can to recruit new members and enrich the Camellia group as a whole.

I will see each of you, I hope, at Myrtle Beach. **Please be there!!!!**

Richard L. Waltz



This mysterious man was seen kissing ladies at a camellia show last year. The reactions were mixed!!



Can you guess what Helen Barnes is thinking?

CAMELLIAS IN THE "NORTH COUNTRY"

by Jim Darden

As an employee of Sampson Technical College in Clinton, N. C., I appreciate very much the North Carolina Department of Community College's philosophy concerning the teachers within the system being encouraged to stay in touch with the latest innovations and techniques that are being used in the field. DCC and the local colleges appropriate money each year for teachers to travel "back to industry" for enrichment and to update themselves on just what is going on in the real world.

This year I applied for, and was granted, funding for a professional development trip to several of the horticultural gardens in the Philadelphia and Washington areas. My primary interest was to see which ornamental plants are cold hardy in the zone 7 and zone 6 regions. Having had catastrophic winters in 1984 and 1985, it is important for me to be aware of the best landscape plants for cold resistance so that I can teach my landscape design students how to incorporate cold hardiness into their landscapes.

Also, I am currently working on a slide program (and video tape presentation) on Rhododendrons. For several years my goal has been to publish consumer guides for the three primary springtime-blooming evergreen plants in the Atlantic Coast area. These are azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons. I have already published the azalea book and video tape, and recently I completed the video tape on Camellias (which any of the ACCS chapters may use for a program, just give me a call if you need to borrow it). Both the azalea and camellia tapes show over 200 varieties in full color. Since I only have 90 rhododendron varieties photographed, I had hoped to shoot quite a few varieties on this trip.

A very busy schedule postponed my trip up north until late in May, near the end of our spring quarter at school. The rhododendrons were already past their prime in our warm coastal area

of eastern North Carolina. But, I rationalized, the D.C.-Philadelphia area is two or three weeks later in its blooming season, so it should be perfect. Well, that presumption turned out to be in error, for the rhododendrons were past their prime "up north" as well. You know what happens when you "assume."

Even though my camera didn't get the workout that I had hoped for, the trip was far from disappointing. The objectives concerning my observation of cold-hardy mid-Atlantic plants were well served. Not only do I have a better handle on the hardiest plants to suggest for my students to use in their landscapes, I can also better advise them which varieties are best to grow for shipment into the cooler parts of our region.

Of course, since I am a Camellia fancier now, and since I have just begun my tenure as editor of *Atlantic Coast Camellias*, I also had another objective in the back of my mind. I was interested in seeing which, if any, camellias survived the recent winters, which were growing in the great gardens that I would visit, and, I hoped, which of the horticulturists would write an article for us on the Camellias being used in their gardens. I decided to contact each director and ask for help.

Mary Nell and I left Clinton on Friday night, May 22nd just after work. We drove up I-95, hoping to reach Washington before stopping. We made it to our goal, and actually a short distance beyond, spending the night near Annapolis, Md. Early the next morning we headed northward on 301 from Maryland to Delaware. Along the way we stopped for breakfast and I tried something new called "scrapple." It turned out to be just that, a meaty mush of left over scrap. My advice is stick to Lundy's sausage. Annabelle and Lew know what they are doing.

The drive through the farmlands of Maryland and Delaware was most enjoyable. About mid-morning we

reached Wilmington, Delaware, and proceeded just a few miles westward to Kennett Square, Pa. We spent the rest of the day enjoying Longwood Gardens. Longwood turned out to be the best Camellia display of the trip. The gardens were billed as "300 acres of springtime," and indeed they were. Magnificent is not nearly a good enough adjective to describe Longwood. We were amazed at the perfect condition of the grounds, and how few people in the large crowds spoke English.

The most spectacular sights at Longwood were the huge glass conservatories. These massive glass buildings are old and regal and splendid. They are landscaped throughout, meticulously groomed, and packed with blooms. There are hundreds of different types of plants in bloom, sometimes thousands of a variety. But,

the most impressive thing for me was what greeted us just inside the front door. CAMELLIAS!! Hundreds of Camellias, and only the finest varieties, were planted all along the walls throughout several of the great glass buildings. There were no weeds (a nurseryman would really appreciate what it takes to achieve that) and the Camellia plants were pruned to perfection. Inside one of the buildings were very old Camellias which were perfectly shaped and over fifteen feet in height. We are already planning a trip back next year when these plants are in bloom. It should be spectacular.

The next morning we drove seven miles down the road from Longwood to the main attraction of our trip—Winterthur. The gardens did not open until 11:00 on Sunday morning, so we had gotten permission to go in early and photograph. That turned out to be



Mary Nell stands by one of the many large Camellia japonicas which are used as focal points in the magnificent conservatory at Longwood Gardens.



*This Camellia room in the conservatory is extraordinary. The plants are expertly groomed, and are huge. Several of these large glass rooms are filled with specimens of the finest varieties of *Camellia japonica*.*

sweet and sour. It was good that we had these massive gardens all to ourselves, as we walked through the floral forests we could hear the rows of tour busses arriving. But, with no horticulturist on duty we had to search for tags on the azaleas and rhododendrons, often without success. The neat walkways meander through the massive trees, and are lined by huge azaleas and rhododendrons. The general layout reminded me of the magnificence of Magnolia Gardens, but clearly was conceived with a more "northern" philosophy.

Overall, Winterthur almost defies description. The horticulturist at Longwood had told us that the color combinations at Winterthur were superior to their own. There are more subtle pastel colors, and the combinations are a bit more complementary. Rarely are two garish colors used together at Winterthur. Even though so much was beyond the peak color season, Winterthur could only be described as magnificent. Everyone should visit Winterthur. Alas,

we did not see a single Camellia.

We decided to depart at about noon and endure the two-hour drive down I-95 to Washington. Everyone should have lunch at least once at the public facility just south of Wilmington, Delaware, in the center of I-95. We had to elbow our way into the sprawling facility, through all of those people who did not speak English, to get to Bob's Big Boy and Roy Rogers. We decided on the Roy Rogers, since I remembered my brother talking very fondly about all of those "Trigger Burgers" that kept him alive for four years in Chapel Hill. Once again we thought, "Annabelle and Lew, where are you when we need you?"

We made it to Washington alive, and went directly to the U. S. National Arboretum. We spent the entire afternoon there, and enjoyed quite a number of late-blooming azaleas. Finally, the camera went into a full sprint. The rhododendrons were past their prime, so we turned our attention to Camellias. They were said to be growing in the Asian Collec-

tion on the map, so off we went in that direction. There we found a rather overgrown area which, if one would judge from the dead stumps and Camellia name plates, was once a very fine Camellia garden. The winter of 1985 apparently has proven that the D. C. area, zone 7, is marginal to unfavorable for outdoor Camellia culture. A few plants have partially grown back, but no japonicas survived without severe damage.

There were two reasons for optimism in the Arboretum. First, we found a massive Camellia *oliefera* which apparently came through the cold unscathed. It must have been over fifteen feet tall. Also, there is already a new planting of small Camellias, those collected by Dr. J. C. Raulston and others from Korea. They were collected from the northern most range of japonicas, within sight of the DMZ and North Korea, where the temperatures are even colder than Washington. Only time will tell, but my guess is that testing such Camellias by Dr. Raulston, Dr. Parks, Dr. Ackerman, and others will provide new varieties and the genes for cold tolerance in future generations of Camellias that will push the range of these great plants farther northward, and comfortably so.

After our third night in a motel, we were ready to start back down I-95 toward home. But first, on Monday morning, we decided to make one more stop, and it turned out to be one of the most interesting. I remembered reading in one of the old ACS yearbooks that George Washington planted hundreds of varieties of ornamental plants at Mount Vernon, including camellias. So, we went to see. We thoroughly enjoyed touring these great historical grounds. We did not find any Camellias on the grounds, nor were any mentioned in the book sold in the gift shop entitled *"The Gardens and Grounds at Mount Vernon."*

The grounds have been meticulously restored to their historic state, just as they were when President Washington died in 1799. However, I am almost sure that an old ACS journal or yearbook mentioned Washington's acquiring Camellias from

a Philadelphia nursery. I will ask the horticulturist at Mount Vernon to research this point, and see if any old varieties are mentioned.

The head horticulturist at each of these four outstanding horticultural sites has been contacted and asked to provide me with an article concerning the Camellias in that garden. I hope that all will respond, and I intend to begin publishing the responses for you in the fall edition of Atlantic Coast Camellias. The results should be interesting. At least two of the gardens, Longwood and the National Arboretum, are heavily into Camellia culture. Mount Vernon is of great interest to the Camellia historian. In addition, the articles should provide some very interesting travel spots for those of you who have not visited these gardens. Mary Nell and I thoroughly enjoyed our travels into the Mid-Atlantic area, and we know that you will too.



CAMELLIA
JAPONICA

THE CAMELLIAS AND GARDENS AT

*Winterthur*TM MUSEUM AND GARDENS

by John J. Feliciani

The sixty acre Winterthur Gardens were developed under the personal direction of the late Henry Francis du Pont (1880-1969). It was his vision, patience, sense of color and horticultural knowledge that produced the many vistas which blend to form this magnificent landscape. The Gardens, even though carefully planned and orchestrated by Mr. du Pont, are very natural with rare and unusual plants growing right along with the native floral.

The one thousand acre Winterthur Grounds surround the Museum which houses the largest display of American decorative arts in the world. Situated in period setting are over 83,000 pieces of American culture covering the period from 1640-1840. The Museum and Gardens, near Wilmington, Delaware, are open year-round except Mondays and Holidays.

Knowing that growing camellias above Washington, D. C. is risky at best, Mr. du Pont started growing them in sheltered locations during the 1950's. Cultivars such as 'Appleblossom', 'Beniken Tsubakai', 'Briar Rose', 'Brilliancy', 'Cleopatra', 'Covington', 'Hinodegumo', 'Maidens Blush', 'Mine-No-Yuki', 'Negishi-ko', 'Rubra Simples', 'White Butterfly', and 'Rev. John G. Drayton' were planted and actually survived until the harsh winters of the 1970's decimated them. Today only *Camellia oleifera* and *Camellia japonica* 'Rev. John G. Drayton' remain. Even these had to be cut back severely and are only now starting to put on a fine show again. 'Rev. John

G. Drayton' with its double deep pink, almost red, flowers was purchased from the late Henry Hohman at Kingsville Nurseries as was *Camellia oleifera*. Perhaps with our present replanting program we can find hardier cultivars to replace the ones we lost.

Before Mr. du Pont began planting camellias outside, large-tubbed specimens of *Camellia japonica* were used in his two conservatories. Today six of these japonicas in shades of red, pink and white still remain in use in the Conservatory.

From the witch-hazels and snowdrops which in most years begin blooming in January to *Jasminum nudiflorum* which will put out a few flowers on mild December days, the Winterthur Gardens have something in bloom twelve months of the year.

The Gardens are best known for the Azalea display which reaches its peak around the 10th of May. Thousands of Azaleas and Rhododendrons are planted throughout the Gardens under the magnificent 100 foot tall forest of Beech, Oak and Tulip Poplar. Below the Azaleas native and imported wildflowers and spring bulbs display their spring color. It's the incorporation of all these plants in different and pleasing color combinations that Mr. du Pont's brilliance as a gardner excels.

Mr. du Pont corresponded with all the plantsmen of his time and through this correspondence was able to receive the newest and best plants available. His friendship with Charles Dexter was instrumental in his obtaining numerous untried Rhododendron

seedlings. These seedlings were planted in the nursery and given identifying numbers as they came into bloom. When he found the color and blooming period necessary for a particular landscape situation the plant was propagated and entered into the Gardens. Today the Gardens are filled with Dexter Rhododendrons which are only known by these numbers. One which he found particularly to his liking was named 'Tan'. This is a mid-size Rhododendron with large, biscuit colored flowers. As a friend of the Arnold Arboretum, Mr. du Pont received many plants that were brought back to this country by the early Asian explorers sent out by the Arnold Arboretum. Plants such as *Xanthoceras sorbifolia*, *Enkianthus peruleus*, and *Davidia involunrata* are now outstanding specimens in the Gardens but still practically unavailable commercially.

One of my favorite spots at Winterthur is the Quarry Garden. This old abandoned quarry with its floor constantly moist was planted with Asiatic primulas which bloom during the lat-

ter part of May into June. The walls of the quarry are planted with countless small shrubs and wildflowers.

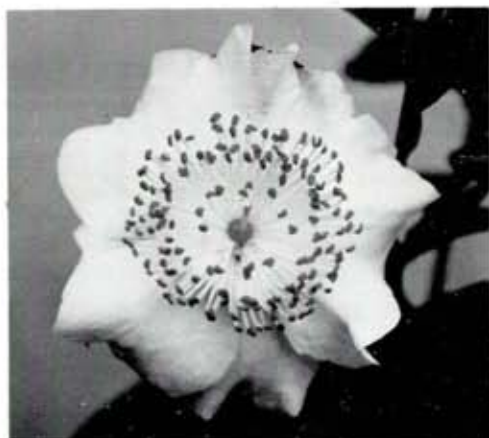
The Gardens again reach a height of color during October when the stately old trees turn the surroundings into a painter's palette with the golds, yellows, oranges and reds all merging and mingling together. At this time the berries on the *Viburnum*, *Cornus* and *Callicarpa* species ripen providing even more interesting color combinations.

During the winter months the area known as the Pinetum, a collection of evergreens from all over the world, became ever more pronounced when the snow begins to fall and the different shades of green emerge against the white background.

Winterthur also has large collections of *Hammamelis*, *Corylopsis*, *Paeonia*, *Hemerocallis*, *Deutzias*, *Philadelphus*, *Chaemomeles*, *Narcissicus*, *Galanthus*, *Scilla*, *Leucojum*, *Prunus* and *Malus* that all blend together to make Winterthur the magnificent garden that it is.

Editor's Note: It is not difficult to understand why John Feliciani's writings mirror a true love for his work at Winterthur. John represents the fourth generation of his family to be involved in the horticultural work there. The Felicianis worked for many years with Henry Francis du Pont to create one of the world's truly outstanding horticultural gardens.

John Feliciani received his B. S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Delaware in 1972. Before college he worked part-time at Winterthur, and after graduation he became a full-time staff member. John has worked his way up through the ranks, first working in labeling and propagating plants, and now holding the position of Supervisor of Horticulture at Winterthur.



MIKUNE-NO-HOMARE--A pure white Higo Camellia grown by Dr. Clifford Parks at Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, N. C.

THE 'ALBA PLENA' STORY

Bill Donnan

Pasadena, CA

Since 'Alba Plena' is one of my favorite camellia cultivars I thought it might be interesting to trace the history of this camellia. What I write here is a compilation of information gleaned from some of the camellia books in my library.

Camellias came into the Western World in the mid seventeen hundreds. In fact, H. Harold Hume, in his book *CAMELLIAS, KINDS AND CULTURE* (1951) states that Lord Petre was growing camellias in his conservatory at Thornton Hall, Essex, as early as 1739! However, it was not until the introduction of 'Alba Plena' and 'Variegata' in 1792 that camellia culture became important in England. To quote Hume: "With these two introductions camellia culture really started. Before that date camellia received scant attention in Europe".

The introduction of 'Alba Plena' into England occurred when Captain Connor of the British East India Company's vessel *CARNATIC* docked in London in 1792 on a voyage from Canton, China. The cultivar he brought with him was called 'Double White'. However it became so popular that it was propagated widely and the name 'Alba Plena' appeared in Andrew's *Botanical Repository* dated 1797 describing the 'Double White' cultivar. According to Thomas Savige, International Registrar and International Camellia Society Authority for Registration of the Genus *Camellia*, 'Alba Plena' had been grown in Japan for over 100 years prior to its importation to England. In Japan the cultivar 'Alba Plena' is named 'Qianyebai', which translated means, 'Thousand Petal White'. Savige indicates that 'Qianyebai', had been referred to by that name in Japan as early as 1621.

There is another book in my library entitled *OLD CAMELLIA VARIETIES*,

compiled by A. I. Ellis and published by the Royal Horticultural Society of London in 1953 (through the generosity of the late Ralph Peer). In it there is some interesting information on 'Alba Plena'. In that book the cultivar is listed as *C. Flore Pleno Albo* (Double White C.) This above listed name was first listed as such in: *ILLUSTRATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF CAMELLIAS* by A. Chandler and W. B. Booth, London, 1831. After seeing the name *Floro Pleno Albo* one wonders whether the original 'Double White' may have arrived in France, Italy, or Portugal prior to 1792. The name *Floro Pleno Albo* sounds as though it ought to be of Latin origin and could, possibly, be the fore-runner of our present 'Alba Plena' epithet. (When one attempts to read up on certain aspects of camellias there are usually two or more conflicting accounts of the early history.) In the same A. I. Ellis book is a listing for *C. 'Fimbriata'* (*C. Fringed 'Double White'*) which is described as a sport of 'Double White'. This cultivar was imported about the year 1816. It is not known who imported 'Frimbiata' but it must have been propagated in Japan for some years prior to its importation.

In the Hume book cited above, I find that camellias were imported to America in 1797 or 1798 from England to the nursery of John Stevens in Hoboken, New Jersey. Also, in July 1800, a Michael Foy brought a plant of 'Alba Plena' from England to Stevens. This is the first recorded entry of 'Alba Plena' to the United States of America. When 'Alba Plena' came to California is not known. Camellias were first imported to Sacramento from Boston in 1852. Doubtless, not long there after 'Alba Plena' must have been in the periodic shipments of camellias which reached California. When 'Alba Plena'

reached Southern California is open to question. At the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California there were two camellia shrubs on the estate when William Hertrich arrived as Head Gardener in 1905. Subsequently many more camellias were planted and by 1915 the collection had been greatly augmented. No doubt 'Alba Plena' was, by then on the grounds. Hertrich later developed a sport of 'Alba Plena'

which he named 'Alba Plena Improved'. The sport is a tad larger in size and the petals lack the conformity of the parent plant but it is, nonetheless, an outstanding bloom. There are two or three 25 foot high shrubs of both 'Alba Plena' and Hertrich's 'Alba Plena Improved' growing in the North Vista at the Huntington Gardens. In November and December of the year they are a beautiful sight to see.

1987-1988 ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

October 24	Mid-Carolina Camellia Show, Columbia, S. C.
October 30	A.C.S. Meeting and Show, Fayetteville, N. C.
November 7	Virginia Camellia Show, Norfolk, VA.
November 7-8	West Carolina Camellia Show, Greenwood, S. C.
November 14-15	Pensacola Camellia Show, Pensacola, FL.
November 14-15	Middle Georgia Camellia Show, Masee Lane
November 21-22	Charleston Camellia Show, Charleston, S. C.
November 21-22	Valdosta Camellia Show, Valdosta, GA.
December 5-6	North Florida Camellia Show, Jacksonville, FL.
January 16-17	Aiken Camellia Show, Aiken, S. C.
January 23	Charleston Camellia Show, Charleston, S. C.
January 30-31	Lakeland Camellia Show, Lakeland, FL.
February 6-7	Charlotte Camellia Show, Charlotte, N. C.
February 13-14	Mid-Carolina Camellia Show, Columbia, S. C.
February 20-21	North Georgia Camellia Show, Atlanta, GA.
February 20-21	Wilson Camellia Show, Wilson, N. C.
February 27-28	Chattanooga Camellia Show, Chattanooga, TN.
February 27-28	Pioneer Camellia Show, Cockeysville, MD.
February 27-28	Tidewater Camellia Show, Wilmington, N. C.
March 5-6	Fayetteville Camellia Show, Fayetteville, N. C.
March 5-6	Middle Tennessee Camellia Show, Nashville, TN.
March 12-13	Men's Piedmont Camellia Show, Greensboro, N. C.
March	Virginia Camellia Show, Norfolk, VA. (date not confirmed yet)
April 9-10	Potomac Valley Camellia Show, Washington, D. C.

These show dates have been confirmed by the club secretaries and by ACS at Masee Lane. Please check to be sure, and report any errors at once to the editor. For more information on these shows, please see the listing of regional clubs and societies elsewhere in this journal.

COLD HARDINESS STUDIES WITH CAMELLIAS IN THE NORTHEAST

By Dr. William L. Ackerman

Ashton, Maryland, U.S.A.

Camellias in the Mid-Atlantic region have been devastated by the severity of seven of the past eleven winters. Although we are accustomed to cold weather, recent winters have been characterized by temperature changes of 50°F or more within a few days time. The abruptness of the drop has caught many broad-leaved evergreen plants, including camellias, without pre-conditioning, making them especially susceptible to injury. It has been established that the prevailing temperatures during the 72 hours prior to a drop to sub-zero weather are critical in affecting plant damage. The duration of the low temperatures also greatly affects plant survival.

The extent of the devastation in the region can be exemplified by that experienced at the U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D. C. which, in 1976, possessed a nationally recognized collection of over 900 camellia specimens (750 *C. japonica*, 120 *C. sasanqua*, and lesser numbers of various other species) many of which were 25 to 35 years old. At the present time only a specimen of *C. oleifera* (PI 162475) remains in its former condition. All others were killed to the ground and, with the exception of a few sprouted stumps, were removed.

It became evident ten years ago that if steps were not taken toward the development of more cold-hardy camellias capable of surviving our winters, camellias might once again fall into disfavor with the American

public as they did around the turn of the century. The main thrust of our cold hardiness breeding program has been the hybridization of *C. oleifera* to develop cold-hardy progeny with commercially acceptable flowers. Although this approach has offered great potential, it has also presented certain obstacles which we have had to overcome.

The difficulty of securing valid hybrids increases as one crosses *C. oleifera* with *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, *C. vernalis*, *C. X Williamsii*, and *C. japonica*, in that order. Most camellia growers are primarily interested in spring flowering *C. japonica* cultivars: Few of the *C. japonica* x *C. oleifera* hybrids have as yet flowered and those that have are intermediate in blooming period between the two parents. Thus, although the plants may be cold-hardy, their early blooming makes them susceptible to late frosts. Also, it should be emphasized that not all strains of *C. oleifera* are cold hardy. So far, the author has tested six strains (from different sources) of *C. oleifera* and found they range in hardiness from those no better than most *C. sasanqua* cultivars to strain (PI 162475) which has withstood repeated exposure to temperatures down to -15°F without injury.

During the seasons of 1978 through 1983, a rather substantial number of interspecific hybrids were developed using two introductions of *C. oleifera* (PI 162475 & PI 162561). These had

proved extremely tolerant of our winter conditions and were used as our primary source of cold hardiness. The **C. oleifera** hybrids were grown in greenhouses at the U. S. Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland for three years. During the springs of 1982 and 1983, about 1500 of these were distributed to 14 cooperators in the Northeast (PA, MD, VA, NC, & DC) for field testing. Although it would have been highly desirable to have made vegetative propagations of these so that replicated planting would have been possible, our limited space and labor made this impractical.

Records of plant injury were taken during May and June of subsequent years, 1983 through to the present. An injury rating system of one through six was used with one designating no observable injury and six designating 91-100% leaf injury, and/or killing of most to all above-ground portions of the plant. High winds (25 to 35 mi per hour) during the January 19-22, 1985 freeze were reported at most locations and would appear to have been associated with the low temperatures (-4 to -17°C) experienced at that time. Although this four-day period was perhaps the extreme in combined high wind-sub zero weather, lesser degrees of similar conditions have been all too prevalent in the region in recent years.

Although actual percentages of surviving plants vary among the locations as was expected, the overall results are encouraging. Totals from all locations show that 15.4% of the plants had 10% or less leaf injury, with 4.8% showing no injury at all.

Beyond **C. oleifera's** known capacity to withstand physical cold is our observation that it also resists excessive moisture loss from the leaves from drying winds compared to other

camellias. In contrast, the best of our cold hardy **C. japonica** cultivars, which for years were outstanding in this area because of their resistance to physical cold, have mostly succumbed in recent winters where high winds were also present. Apparently, they do not have the capacity to resist desiccation. An interesting research project would be



Mary Nell Darden stands beneath a massive Camellia oleifera at the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington. This plant not only withstood the catastrophic -9 degrees of January, 1985, but tipped its hat at the elements by blooming profusely that spring.



All that remain of the once outstanding *Camellia japonica* collection at the Arboretum are dead stumps, and shoots that have come back from the ground, such as this one in front of the Editor. In most cases it is difficult to tell if these plants are from the scion or rootstock wood.

to compare the leaf morphology of *C. oleifera* and *C. japonica* leaves to determine if observable differences in leaf tissue exist to account for this apparent phenomenon.

Breeding for superior hybrids involving any particular desired characteristic, be it cold-hardiness, floral fragrance, etc., is not necessarily a straight-forward matter of making the proper crosses and waiting for results. Much depends on whether one

dealing with qualitative or quantitative inheritance. Qualitative inheritance is manifest by characters which are mainly controlled by a few genes usually at one location on the chromosomes. Variation is discontinuous; examples: flower color, singleness, or doubleness, etc. Here, a character is either present or it is not (a flower is either white or colored, either single or not single). Quantitative inheritance is manifest by characters which are controlled and affected by a number of interacting genes, or a multiple series of genes at several chromosome locations. Variation is continuous; examples: most size measurements of leaves, flowers. Breeding for quantitative characters can be very complex.

It would appear that inheritance for resistance to physical cold and that for resistance to desiccation are controlled by separate genetic complexes; that some *C. japonica* cultivars possess the former genetic complex but not the latter, while some *C. oleifera* strains possess both. Also, it is near certain that our *C. oleifera* introductions are heterozygous and contain both "good" and "bad" genes in respect to the cold hardiness expression. This, in turn, would explain the variation in the degree of cold hardiness expression among the various hybrids. The logical approach is to try to accumulate as many "good" genes for cold-hardiness into individual hybrids as possible. It is much like taking a thoroughly mixed deck of cards and repeatedly shuffling them in an attempt to draw cards all of one kind. The more cards (genes) you have, the more difficult the task. With cards this means many shufflings, with cold hardy camellias this means many crosses and large populations.

Scions and cuttings have been col-

lected from most of 128 hybrids observed to have less than 10% winter injury. Scions have been grafted onto **C. oleifera** (PI 162475) seedling rootstocks, and cuttings have been rooted under mist. These will be grown on for further field trials. Concurrently, a group of the best performers with good flower size and quality are in process for naming and release.

Of more recent origin and field testing are two series of crosses of **C. oleifera**; one with **C. X Williamsii** and the other with **C. japonica**. Because of the greater difficulty in making these crosses and therefore smaller numbers, the original hybrids were vegetatively propagated in the greenhouse prior to replicated field planting.

The first plants from these two series were planted out during the spring of 1985. Although most of these came through the past two winters without injury, it was not an adequate test (minimum temperatures did not exceed -6°F) and further test winters are necessary before final selections are made. However, among those that have thus far flowered, several appear to have good commercial potential and one has been named (Figure 3).

We may not completely understand the modes of inheritance of the two facets of cold-hardiness, and certainly no control over the random recombination of interacting genes. Yet, our working with large populations involving good parental lines should, and apparently has, come up with some highly desirable genetic combinations in individual progeny.

The most essential quality a plant breeder must have is patience, the second is a keen sense of observation. Mother nature rarely concedes to the 'quick fix' so prevalent in today's

society; for short cuts seem not to be in her genetic vocabulary. With the camellia growers here in the Northeast, we are not only dealing with the survival of plants, but the very survival of our local societies as viable organizations.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dr. William Ackerman is a research horticulturist at the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Md. His camellia breeding program has already given us several excellent camellias with cold tolerance and fragrance not known before. Dr. Ackerman will be a featured speaker at the October meeting of the ACCS in Myrtle Beach. See back cover for more information.



Graphic provided by Monrovia Nursery

Editor's Column

By Jim Darden



It certainly is nice to turn the calendar over to September and to begin to enjoy that wonderful fall weather that signifies the beginning of the Camellia season. It has been a mighty hot summer in eastern North Carolina, but for the first time in several years we have had normal rainfall (which means no serious drought, a plague that has become common to us during the past several years). Dr. Clifford Parks tells me that in Chapel Hill, just 100 miles north of us, a drought has indeed been prevalent during much of the summer.

But not here, thank goodness. The farmers have a good crop this year, and my nursery has grown unbelievably. It seems that we can irrigate all day and apparently throw enough water with our sprinkler system to sustain the azaleas and camellias during the dry periods. But, there is nothing like a good rain for a nursery. I don't know exactly what it is, but you can almost see the plants growing (both ornamental and weeds) when there is adequate rainfall. I guess the rainfall allows more of the time release fertilizer to be liberated, and gives the plant the moisture that it needs to take up those nutrients.

At any rate, the camellia season is almost upon us, and my plants are budding up like never before. I started noticing bloom buds in late July, and now they are everywhere. Now I know how excited we camellia folks get as the bloom and bud mature and we anticipate the fall and winter blooms opening. Well, this year I have the fever too.

The events planned by the ACCS and the ACS this fall are really excellent. Our own ACCS meeting in Myrtle Beach is planned for October 2-3. That meeting should be outstanding, with the likes of Marion Edwards, William Ackerman and Walter Homeyer there to enlighten us. The meetings that I have attended in Myrtle Beach for the past two years have been very pleasant experiences. This year will certainly be no exception.

Then the ACS meeting in Fayetteville is planned for October 29-31. Wow, what a show Annabelle and Lew have planned for you. The Fettermans have taken out all the stops, and are planning a meeting that will be long remembered. Take a look at the agenda printed elsewhere in this journal. The Fayetteville Club is really going all out to make sure that you have a good time at this meeting. Not only do we have one of the first shows of the year, but just look at the tours, pig pickins, costume balls, and other events that will be going on. I hope that everyone will consider joining us for both of these outstanding camellia events in October.

I am sure that many of you have received a letter from Carl Allen about the extraordinarily generous offer made by Annabelle and Lew

Fetterman toward the construction of permanent facilities at the ACS headquarters at Masee Lane. This offer is contingent upon the matching funds being provided by the rest of us. Please give serious consideration to this request, as every dollar that we give will be matched by the Lundy Foundation. Just imagine what we can do to further camellias in America by exercising this offer to the fullest and upgrading the ACS headquarters to one of the finest horticultural facilities in the world.

One more money matter. Latimer McClintock reminds us that ACCS dues are due. Please use the form on the back page of this journal, or the letter that we will send you, and remit your dues soon. As editor of your journal I have been acutely aware of our budgetary situation. We need support

from EVERYONE in order to continue providing journals with color covers, annual meetings, and all of the other services that ACCS gives to its members. Please support us so that we can work for you.

That's enough about money. Settle back, relax, and enjoy this issue of Atlantic Coast Camellias. Think about all the buds out there and the beauty that they are planning for us during the next few months. Your next issue of this journal will arrive around the first of the new year. It should include the results of the eight camellia shows that are scheduled in our region before Christmas. I hope to see you in Myrtle Beach and Fayetteville before that issue comes. Best wishes for the best fall ever.

BULLETIN BOARD

WANTED - A plant or scion of the camellia variety "John Comber." If you have this variety, PLEASE CONTACT John R. Comber, 105 Shasta Road, Pensacola, Florida 32507, (904) 455-8496.

AN INVITATION - Dr. and Mrs. Clifford Parks invite all interested people to visit their gardens and nursery in Chapel Hill, N. C., on Sunday, November 1, 1987. This is the day immediately after the ACS meeting in Fayetteville, N. C. The Parks will allow visitors to browse among the 200 plus species of plants that they have for sale, including many camellia species and varieties, and see the thousands of camellia seedlings in Dr. Parks' research project.

WANTED - A plant of the camellia variety "Sound of Music." If you have this variety, please contact Clarence E. Jones, Suite 306, Riverwind I, Elizabeth City, N. C. 27909.

AVAILABLE - One gallon, second-year camellia japonicas. Some seedlings and others are unknown varieties. Perfect for grafting understock. Contact Jim Darden, 1239 Sunset Avenue, Clinton, N. C. 28328, (919) 592-3725.

ACS FALL MEETING

American Camellia Society President Annabelle Fetterman asks everyone to mark your calendar for a very special event this October 29-31. You can enjoy one of the first big shows of the season, along with several additional events which have been planned for you. A tentative agenda and registration are printed for you below. It is not early to start making plans. Joe Austin says you should start gibbing August 15, and gib two blooms on each plant for three weeks for this show. You will not want to miss this one.

TENTATIVE AGENDA—ACS FALL MEETING Fayetteville, N. C., October 29-31, 1987

Thursday, October 29

8:00 a. m. - 4:00 p. m.	Registration (Lobby: Howard Johnson Hotel I-95, Exit 49, Fayetteville, N. C.)
9:00 a. m.	Committee Meetings
10:00 a. m.	Governing Board Board of Trustees
NOON	Lunch on you own
1:30 p. m.	Opening Session of Convention Educational Program
4:00 p. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Hospitality Room
6:00 p. m.	Board buses for Clinton See Wild Animal & Marine Life Trophy Collection by Mr. & Mrs. Burrows T. Lundy
7:00 p. m.	North Carolina Pig Pickin Hosted by ACS President Annabelle & Lew
9:00 p. m.	Board buses for return to Fayetteville

Friday, October 30

8:00 a. m.	Registration
8:00 a. m. - 11:00 a. m.	Enter blooms in Show at Cross Creek Mall
11:00 a. m.	Judges assemble to judge show
1:00 p. m.	Luncheon for judges at Morrisons, Cross Creek Mall Others have morning free and lunch on your own
2:00 p. m.	Board buses for tour of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base installation. Visit 82nd Airborne Division Museum and inside of transport plane.
5:00 p. m.	Board buses for return to Hotel
6:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Hospitality Room
7:00 p. m.	Dinner at Hotel Entertainment

Saturday, October 31

9:00 a. m.	Registration
10:00 a. m.	Board buses for Historic Tour
NOON	Luncheon at Historic Woman's Club's Heritage Square
2:00 p. m.	Free Time
6:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Hospitality Room
7:00 p. m.	Halloween Costume Ball and dinner buffet
	All guests and servers in costume
	Prizes awarded for best costume, ugliest, most original, most beautiful
	Entertainment

ACS FALL CONVENTION

October 29, 30, 31, 1987

Headquarters at Howard Johnson Hotel
I-95, Exit 49, Fayetteville, North Carolina

A special rate of \$44 single or double occupancy (plus 8% tax). Make room reservations directly to: HOWARD JOHNSON HOTEL

P. O. Box 2086
Fayetteville, N. C. 28302
Phone: (919) 323-8282

Come enjoy Tarheel Hospitality visiting historical Fayetteville in the Fall. Excellent programs and tours are planned for your enjoyment. Bring your blooms to enhance our Show at Cross Creek Mall, Friday and Saturday, October 30 & 31. We'll be delighted to have you with us.

Mrs. Louise Mayo
Co-Chairperson
(919) 484-2661

Mrs. Martha Duell
Convention Chairperson
(919) 485-7511

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name _____ Badges to Read _____
Address _____

	On or Before October 1, 1987	After October 1, 1987
Full Convention	\$90.00	\$95.00
Friday & Saturday Only	75.00	80.00
Saturday Only	50.00	55.00

Please enclose fee payable to ACS Convention and mail to:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Dahlen, Registration Co-chairmen
703 Laurel Drive (803) 649-9586
Aiken, South Carolina 29801

THE 'RASPBERRY ICE' STORY

James H. McCoy Fayetteville, N. C.

In the winter of 1983, I received a group of scions from Gordon Howell, Lynchburg, Virginia. I was familiar with most of them, but there were a few that I had never heard of. I grafted them all, and all of them took, as I recall. Subsequently, they bloomed. In 1985 one bloomed which was named 'Raspberry Ice'. It was a stunning bloom. It was not listed in the nomenclature book. This puzzled me. I could not imagine such a beautiful camellia not being registered.

The flower resembled 'Cinderella' and I felt sure that it must be a sport of 'Cinderella' or of 'Fred Sander', from which came 'Cinderella'. It resembled this cultivar but was different, and in my opinion, much lovelier. This is quite a compliment, as 'Cinderella' won the first All American Camellia award in 1957. 'Cinderella' is predominately white with a deep rose center. Its petal edges are heavily fimbriated, and the petals themselves are convoluted and twisted in a most attractive and interesting way. "Raspberry Ice" had the identical form but was even more "ruffled", had much better texture and the blooms were larger. The color was similar, but it would have to be described as light rose colored with deep rose (or raspberry) streaks on all petals.

As Gordon Howell could not remember where he got this cultivar, I wrote about this camellia in my regular feature in Atlantic Coast Camellias, called "In and Around the Greenhouse", and requested from readers information about this cultivar. I received response from several camellia growers who had it. Several told me that it came from California, but no one seemed to know much about its origin. It was not until 1987 that Bill Donnan, Pasadena, California,

suggested that I contact Mr. Amos Kleinsasser in Bakersfield, California. He told me that Mr. Kleinsasser could probably tell me what I wanted to know about 'Raspberry Ice'. I did not have Mr. Kleinsasser's address or phone number, and he was not listed as a member of ACS. I was momentarily stumped. Then I remembered that I had met Dr. Lee Chow from Bakersfield when I was out in California for the Modesto ACS convention. I wrote to Dr. Chow and asked him to send me the address of Mr. Kleinsasser, and I told him why I wanted it. He did, and I called Mr. Kleinsasser. Finally, I got the story of "Raspberry Ice" and why it was never registered.

Mr. Kleinsasser told me that it was discovered by his friend, Mr. Lem Freeman, while he was working at the Claude Morelock Nursery. Mr. Morelock told Mr. Kleinsasser about this sport of 'Fred Sander' and asked him to come over and evaluate it. Mr. Kleinsasser was a respected camellia grower and could tell him whether it was worthy of propagation and registration. Mr. Kleinsasser went over, and examined the bloom and told his friend, Mr. Morelock to forget it. The blooms that were open were at the top of the bush. Though they were different from 'Cinderella', they were flat and not very attractive.

About a week later, Mr. Morelock called Mr. Kleinsasser again and asked him to come over to the nursery and look at a bloom which had appeared at the bottom of the bush. Mr. Kleinsasser did, and was fascinated at what he saw! This bloom was large, high crinkled & fimbriated. This was definitely something beautiful, different and worthy of establishing and registering.

At the request of Mr. Morelock, the entire plant was moved to Mr. Kleinsasser's home and graft scions were selectively taken from outstanding blooms. Over the next few years Mr. Kleinsasser had successfully grafted about 40 plants which all bloomed and held true.

At this time, Mr. Kleinsasser began to exhibit 'Raspberry Ice' as a new mutation in many of the large camellia shows in southern California. This was "topped off" with "Best New Introduction" award in the 1963 Kern County Camellia Show. Some blooms having been treated experimentally with "Gib" have reached 7" diameter. Mr. Kleinsasser continued grafting this cultivar until there were 240 plants.

'Raspberry Ice' was then noticed by

the Alert Scout of Monrovia Nursery Company which purchased all plants and rights with the intention of registration and patenting it. For some reason this was never done, and after some years of production and sales, 'Raspberry Ice' was no longer offered for sale. Hence no patent and it never was registered.

Mr. Kleinsasser is very grateful and pleased to have had the privilege of "fixing" and "establishing" this beautiful creation of God's, and knows it will be appreciated and loved by Camellia fanciers everywhere.

If nothing happens, by the time the next issue of the nomenclature book comes out, 'Raspberry Ice' will join the other thousands of camellias which someone thought were worth registering.



Jim McCoy is shown here enjoying his favorite plant in his greenhouse in Fayetteville, N. C. Jim and Angie have recently moved to Charlotte, N. C. and had to leave many of their camellias behind. Their current address and telephone number are listed on the inside cover of this journal.

Atlantic Coast Camellia Clubs, Societies, and Shows

Aiken Camellia Club—President, William C. Robertson; Secretary, Janet S. Burns, 1006 Alfred St., N. E., Aiken, S.C. 29801, (803) 648-0652. Meetings: Second Thursday, October through March, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 353 Laurens St., N. W., Aiken, S.C. 29801, 8:00 P. M. Show: January 16-17, 1988, Univ. of South Carolina at Aiken. Show Chairman: W. Lee Poe, Jr., 807 Rollingwood Rd., Aiken, S. C. 29801, (803) 648-8249.

Charlotte Camellia Society—President, Gloria B. McClintock; Secretary, J. Latimer McClintock, 1325 E. Barden Road, Charlotte, N. C. 28226, (704) 366-0207. Meetings: Last Monday, September through May, Jackson's Cafeteria, 740 Tyvola Road, Charlotte, N. C. 6:30 p. m. Show: February 6-7, 1988, South Park Mall, Charlotte, N. C. Show Chairpersons: Susan & Walter Stone, 5117 Amity Place, Charlotte, N. C. 28212, (704) 535-4115.

Chattanooga Camellia Club—President, Bill Gleaves; Secretary, Margaret Hammack, 6921 Snow Hill Road, Ooltewah, TN 37363, (615) 238-4854. Meetings: Third Sunday, September through May, at Member's Homes, 2:30 p. m. Show: February 27-28, 1988, Eastgate Mall. Show Chairperson: Merrill Fairchild, 4412 Live Oak Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37412, (615) 621-0639.

Coastal Carolina Camellia Society—President, Charles A. Bianchi; Secretary, Donna W. Shepherd, 4724 Park Place East, North Charleston, S. C. 29406, (803) 744-4841. Meetings: Third Tuesday, August through February, except September and December, S.C. E&G Meeting Room, Citadel Mall, Charleston, S. C. for August and October meetings, Other Sites To Be Announced, 7:00 p. m. Shows: November 21-22, 1987, First Federal of Charleston, 34 Broad St., Charleston, S. C. Show Chairman: Charles H. Heins, 1854 Hut-ton Court, Charleston, S. C. 29407, (803) 766-8279. Second Show: January 23, 1988, Citadel Mall, Sam Rittenberg Blvd. (Hwy. 7), Charleston, S. C. Show Chairman: Rupert E. Drews, 775 Sparrow Street, Charleston, S. C. 29412, (803) 795-2497.

Fayetteville Camellia Club—President, Annabelle Fetterman; Secretary, Nelson Condit, Rt. 1 Box 530, Aberdeen, N. C. 28315, (919) 944-1991. Meetings: Third Monday, September through May, Western Sizzlin Steak House, Raeford Road, Fayetteville, N. C., 6:00 p. m. First Show: October 29-31, 1987, Host Club for ACS National Meeting, Show to be at Cross Creek Mall, Friday, October 30, 1987, Show Chairman: Joe Austin, P. O. Box 297, Four Oaks, N. C. 27524, (919) 963-2735. Second Show: March 5-6, 1988, Cross Creek Mall, Fayetteville, N. C., Chairman: Joe Austin, address and phone number above.

Men's Piedmont Camellia Club—President, Joe Coyle; Secretary, Sylvia Watson, 3505 Tanglewood Dr., Greensboro, N. C. 27410, (919) 294-2467. Meetings: Second Monday, September through May, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Market St., Greensboro, N. C. 7:30 p. m. Show: March 12-13, 1988, Friendly Shopping Center, Greensboro, N. C., Chairman: Lester M. Allen, 917 Forest Hill Dr., Greensboro, N. C. 27410, (919) 299-2496.

North Georgia Camellia Society—President, John T. Newsome; Secretary, Milton Snoeyenbos. Meetings: Second Friday, September through March, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Piedmont at the Prado, Atlanta, GA, Show: February 20-21, 1988, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Piedmont Road, Atlanta, GA, Show Chairman: John T. Newsome, 2405 Howell Mill Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318, (404) 355-4478.

Pioneer Camellia Society of Maryland—President, Mrs. Harry J. Kendig; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Davis, 216 Oakdale Road, Baltimore, MD 21210, (301) 366-3830. Meetings: First Sunday, September through May except January, Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD, Show Chairperson: Zenobia M. (Mrs. Harry) Kendig, 1014 Chestnut Ridge Dr., Lutherville, MD 21093, (301) 252-5568.

Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley—President, William L. Miller; Secretary: Mrs. Bette (William J.) Sette, 6017 Madawaska Road, Bethesda, MD 20816, (301) 229-1307. Meetings: Second Sunday, October through May, U. S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, N. E., Washington, D. C. 20002. Show: April 9-10, 1988, U.S. National Arboretum Auditorium, address above, Show Chairman: Dr. Arthur Maryott, 4404 Maple Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 645-5727.

Tidewater Camellia Club—President, James Thompson, Jr.; Secretary, Betsy (Mrs.) Lester) Kuhn, 4023 Crofton Place, Wilmington, N. C. 28403, (919) 799-7077. Meetings: Third Tuesday, October through May except January, location not decided, 7:30 p. m., Show: February, 1988, Independence Mall, Wilmington, N. C., Show Chairman: to be elected.

Mid-Carolina Camellia Club—President, Ann McKinnon; Secretary, Dorothy J. Hollis, 336 Springwood Road, Columbia, S.C. 29206, (803) 787-1719. Meetings: Third Tuesday, September through May, Quincy's Family Steakhouse, 4560 Forest Drive, Columbia, S.C., 8:00 p. m. Show: October 24, 1987, State Fairgrounds, Columbia, S.C. Show Chairman: Jim Pinkerton, Rt. 1, Box 243B-8, Lugoff, S.C. 29078, (803) 438-2794. Second Show: February 13-14, 1988, Columbia Mall, Columbia, S.C., Chairman: Dalton Parker, 531 Lockshire Road, Columbia, S.C. 29210, (803) 772-4788.

Middle Tennessee Camellia Society—President, Woodrow Harris; Secretary, Mrs. A.B. Cooper, 4708 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37220, (615) 373-0842. Meetings: Second Tuesday, September through May, Tennessee Botanical Gardens at Cheekwood, 7:30 p. m. Show: March 5-6, 1988, Tennessee Botanical Gardens at Cheekwood, Show Chairman: Robert Hershey, 862 Bresslyn Road, Nashville, TN 37205, (615) 352-0262.

Camellia Society of Northeast Florida—President, Mrs. Irma Amlung; Secretary, Winifred Chasten, 7323 San Carlos Road, Jacksonville, FL 32217, (904) 731-0620. Meetings: Fourth Sunday, September through March, Public Library, 2054 Plainfield Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073, 2:30 p. m. Show: December 5-6, 1987, Market Square Mall, Phillips Highway, Jacksonville, FL Show Chairman: Marion Edwards, 5603 Darlow Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32211, (904) 744-2690.

Valdosta Camellia Society—President, Searcy and Helen McClure; Secretary, Donna Newbern, 5 Dogwood Circle, Valdosta, GA 31602, (912) 244-3647. Meetings: Fourth Tuesday, September through March except December, Huly's Smith's House, 7:00 p. m., Show: November 21-22, 1987, Valdosta Garden Center, North Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA, Show Chairpersons: Nita and Buford McRae, 2212 Briarcliff Drive, Valdosta, GA 31602, (919) 244-8240.

Virginia Camellia Society—President, Lillian Miller; Secretary, Sally Simon, 508 Fairfax Avenue, Norfolk, VA, (804) 625-0374. Meetings: Second Tuesday, September through May, Norfolk Botanical Gardens Auditorium, Norfolk, VA, 8:00 p. m. Show: November 7, 1987, Mall, Military Circle, Norfolk, VA, Second Show: March, 1988, Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Norfolk, VA, Show Chairman: Doug Simon, 508 Fairfax Avenue, Norfolk, VA. 23507, (804) 625-0374.

West Carolina Camellia Society—President, Nollie Robinson, Meetings: Second Sunday, November, January, February, March, and August, Office of Dr. Bill Roche, Greenwood, S.C., 2:30 p. m., Show: November 7-8, 1987, Inn-On-The-Square, Greenwood, S. C., Chairperson: Linda Foxworth, 134 Colonial Drive, Greenwood, S.C. 29646, (803) 223-1939.

Wilson Camellia Show—Conducted by the Wilson Garden Club, President, Effie Boykin, Show: February 20-21, 1988, Parkwood Mall, Wilson, N. C., Chairman: Joe Austin, P. O. Box 297, Four Oaks, N. C. 27524, (919) 963-2735.

The club and show information listed above is accurate as best the editor can determine at this time. "Thank you" to the 14 club secretaries who returned the questionnaire. Please review the information above, and contact the editor immediately if you have additions or corrections.

CAMELLIA HYBRIDISATION, AN ON GOING STUDY

Dr. T. E. Pierson

Hurstville, Australia

Very few people are ever completely satisfied with what they have and while admiring what presents we are constantly seeking to change it, to 'improve' it in some way or other so that we can then be further dissatisfied and then seek to alter it yet again. This attitude of course applies to Camellias, though amongst the most beautiful of flowers they do have faults and deficiencies. As you in the U.S.A. know to your cost they are no where near sufficiently cold hardy, they don't have a wide enough range of colours, they don't in general have enough perfume, and some of them are most unattractive plants in their native species non hybrid form.

The first factor to be successfully altered was to improve the frost hardness (you on the Atlantic Coast may say not by enough) in the 1930's J. C. Williams crossed the *Saluenensis* with the *Japonicas* to come up with the now justly Famous *Williamsii* hybrids in doing so he also came up with a side effect which I am sure was not anticipated (not a Pun) in that he developed a range of plants that though calcifuges like all camellias must, as we have found in the Sydney N.S.W. region have some calcium to remain healthy we give it in the form of dolomite a double salt of calcium and magnesium, it would seem to be the *saluenensis* in the blood line that needs the calcium as not only does this apply to the *Williamsii* group but it also applies to the *reticulata* hybrid Leonard Messel, as witness there is a most magnificent plant of this in the R.H.S. garden at Wisley in Surrey U.K. and there the ground is about eighteen inches of soil on decayed limestone marl.

Unattractive plant habit was dealt with by combining the huge flower size of the retics with the dense stocky habit of the *japonicas* and another most successful line of camellia

hybrids was launched. In New Zealand and the U.S. (Ackerman) there has been a concerted attack on the perfume problem, in this regard the species *lutchuensis* has been most useful in the hybridising programme. Colour range widening has to date been concentrated on using those few cultivars which showed some (often imagined) colour break such as *Gweneth Morey* or *Brushfields Yellow* but with the introduction of *Chrysanth* we can at long last hope for some really significant colour breaks and again they will be hybrids.

The change that will interest us here in Sydney and probably the Californians wouldn't say no to it either would be to have our *Camellia* bloom all the year round, this could probably be done by the introduction of the *Tucherias* into the genetic pattern, in Australia the *T. Spectabilis* is summer flowering so the prospect looks interesting. No doubt the use of the related species the *Gordonias* would make a useful contribution as to frost hardness if they could be successfully hybridised into the camellia schematics.

There is however one daunting complication and that is that though there are many related species in the genera they are not all compatible to sexual hybridisation in fact it would seem that much to the exasperation of those working with it that c. *Chrysanth* is to say the least of it temperamental if not outright lacking in compatibility in some of its most desirable arranged marriages. There is a faint glimmer of hope however recent work done in the Victorian Department of Agriculture shows that it is possible to effect asexual hybridisation directly of sexually incompatible plants and to propagate by means of tissue culture (there have been significant advances in this field as a result of work in the University of Melbourne), but I am as yet uncertain as to whether this work can be successfully applied to *Camellias*.



John Newsome and Ed Atkins discuss gibbing and grafting with one of our newest Camellia enthusiasts, Rachael Hotchkiss, at the 1986 ACCS meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

(Photo by Dave Scheibert)



Marie and Paul Dahlen enjoy the 1986 ACCS banquet in Myrtle Beach. Paul is the Chairman of the American Camellia Society Committee on Education.

IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy

Charlotte, N. C.

Can you successfully move a large camellia? Yes, indeed, if you know how. I have tried it many times, sometimes successful but more often with disastrous results. I have recently run across a method that the author claims will work well and I believe it would. It was described in Frank Griffin's book "Camellian". I have not tried it, but surely would if the occasion arose. Here it is: simply grasp the plant firmly by the trunk and direct a strong stream of water from a garden hose around it. After a few minutes of this, the tree will begin to loosen in the dirt. As it releases its grip on "mother earth", move the stream further out into the root system until the ground around the tree becomes relatively soupy. After a few minutes, the tree can be safely lifted out of the ground and transferred to its new location.

To prepare the new site, measure off a circle on the ground equivalent to the diameter of the branches. Begin at the edge of the circle with your water hose and play the direct stream of water onto the ground, moving inwards toward the center. When the new location has become about the same consistency of the ground where you uprooted the tree, place the plant. You will notice that it settles right into place. If some of the larger roots are a bit reticent to fall into place, simply "burrow" out a trough for them with the water pressure.

I have been writing this feature, "In and Around the Greenhouse" since 1977. I have presumed to tell camellia growers all about growing camellias, including how to plant them. I wish I had qualified my instructions! I have recently moved from Fayetteville, which is in the sandhills of North Carolina, to Charlotte, which is in the

Piedmont. I think that my instructions on how to plant camellias were good instructions, but not for the Piedmont of North Carolina or any other state where the soil is red clay and almost as hard as poured concrete! The first time I tried to plant a camellia here, I took a shovel, stuck the point into the ground and stomped it. I expected it to sink half way into the soil. It did not! It bounced right back at me. I planted a pink dogwood on my lawn. Only one, because I couldn't find but one. I'm glad I couldn't. It took me a half day to plant that thing. I started out with a shovel and a spade and wound up with a pick! At one point, I would have used a half stick of dynamite if I had it! I wish that someone who has had experience planting things in this type of soil would write me and tell me how to do it. I would gladly pass the information on.

Those of you who have the great good fortune of being able to grow japonicas and non-retic hybrids outside, might be interested in a tid-bit gleaned from the last issue of New Zealand's "Camellia Bulletin." It was an article written by Harry Cave, a well respected and well known camellia man from New Zealand. He tells of his experience trying to grow 'Elsie Jury' at his home in Wanganui. He says that he put his first plant of 'Elsie Jury' in the garden in a "bright open site with plenty of sun and air". The plant grew reluctantly with yellow stunted foliage and poor flowers. "After reading an article by Trevor Lennard, one of New Zealand's top-flight camellia hybridizers and growers, he moved his 'Elsie Jury' to a shadier place where it "grew quite well". Soon afterward, he visited a garden in Te Puke, and there he found the answer. Behind the house was a glossy, green-leaved 'Elsie Jury' with superb blooms. The

heavy shade seemed to suit it well. He said that he took the hint, came home and moved his plant into heavy shade. The result was excellent, a greener plant and a few of those superb flowers.

Those of you who would like to get into hybridizing, or just controlled seedling culture might like to know with which cultivars you should start, in order to have seeds develop or seedlings result which are outstanding. One of our most enthusiastic camellia growers, one who tries **everything**, gave me his choices for best retics to use for hybridizing. They are 'Suzanne Withers,' 'Buddy Bills', and Frank

Purcel's 'X-11'. And of these three, 'Suzanne Withers' is far and away his first choice. Now for japonicas to use. I will have to give you my choices. My number one would be 'Ville de Nantes'. All a bee has to do is to fly close to a 'Ville' bloom and it'll develop a seed. My number two would be 'Tiffany'. Besides being one of the loveliest camellias we have, it is the pollen parent of 'Valentine Day'. Nuff said! My third choice would be 'Mrs. D. W. Davis'. Why? Because it is the pollen parent of some of our finest cultivars, including 'Dick Goodson', 'Hulyn Smith', 'Janet Smith', 'Cameron Cooper' and many, many, more.

Outstanding Educational Panel Assembled for A.C.S. Meeting

If you were a Camellia enthusiast, and someone asked you to provide an outstanding panel of three nationally renowned Camellia authorities for an American Camellia Society meeting, who would you ask? Well, Annabelle decided to try for the very best. Dr. Clifford Parks, outstanding breeder and plant geneticist from U.N.C. was asked. Dr. Luther Baxter, probably America's top Camellia pathologist, from Clemson University, was asked. And Dr. Walter Homeyer, certainly one of the top amateur breeders in the country, was sent an invitation.

We are happy to announce that all three of these eminent Camellia people have accepted the invitations, and will be on our panel for the educational session at the A.C.S. meeting in Fayetteville. You will not want to miss this outstanding event. The discussion will be Thursday afternoon, October 29, from 1:00 until 4:30. We invite you to make a note on your calendar and take advantage of this unique Camellia happening.

Remember, Dr. Clifford Parks, Dr. Luther Baxter, and Dr. Walter Homeyer will be discussing Camellias and answering your questions at the Thursday, October 29 session. Don't miss it. The educational session will be followed by a delicious "pig picking" dinner with Lew and Annabelle at the Lundy Packing Company, and then on Friday morning the competition will begin with the Camellia Show at the Cross Creek Mall in Fayetteville.

Don't miss this opportunity for good fun, good food, and a spectacular camellia show in Fayetteville. See information in this journal for registration.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN

We hope that you will join the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Let's enjoy Camellias together.

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society was organized September 13, 1980 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The purpose of our organization is to extend the appreciation of Camellias and to promote the science of Camellia culture. Through our Camellia shows and programs, and by exchanging knowledge and ideas with the Camellia specialists within our membership, we feel that everyone in the ACCS benefits from being a member of this organization. Whether you are a beginning Camellia fancier or a veteran Camellia competitor, the ACCS is dedicated to providing information, shows, and social events that you will find helpful, entertaining, and enjoyable.

Annual dues for membership in the ACCS are \$10.00 for singles or couples. The membership year runs from October to October. A membership entitles you to three issues of Atlantic Coast Camellias, the journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. These are issued March 1 (spring), June 1 (summer), and September 1 (fall). In addition, your membership provides an invitation to our annual meeting in October in Myrtle Beach, S. C. This event has been especially successful in recent years, with over 100 participants in 1986, and with such keynote speakers as Julius Nuccio and Sergio Bracchi.

A variety of Camellia topics are addressed in articles published in Atlantic Coast Camellias. In addition to regular features concerning Camellia culture in the landscape and in the greenhouse, articles cover such topics as Camellia planting, grafting, rooting, judging, pruning, gibbing, disease control, insect control, new and old varieties, show preparations and results, liming, fertilization, spraying, mulching, disbudding, and nursery production. Numerous photographs and illustrations are provided.

We invite you to join, and welcome you as a member. Please make your check payable to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Fill out the convenient application blank below, and mail it to:

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
1325 East Barden Street
Charlotte, N. C. 28226

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

☐ Check if you want a membership card.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Our annual meeting is scheduled again this year to be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on October 2-3. Much of the program has already been planned while some of the "surprises" are still on the drawing board. Mark your calendar now and join us for this interesting and educational event.

DATE: October 2-3, 1987

PLACE: Independent Holiday Inn
1200 North Ocean Blvd.
Myrtle Beach, S. C. 29577
Telephone: 1-803-448-1691

COST: Registration Fee \$22.00
per person
Hotel Room: \$32.00/night
Double Occupancy

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 2nd

2:00-5:00 Registration

3:00 Meeting of ACCS Officers
and Directors

6:00 Country & Western Party by
the pool - Wear your best
western duds. Buffet food
furnished by our ladies.
Drinks furnished by ACCS.

Saturday, October 3rd

10:00 AM Bloody Mary Party at
Myrtle Beach Elks Club,
hosted by Mr. & Mrs.
Richard Waltz.

11:00 AM General Business Meeting
Guest Speaker:
Dr. William Ackerman

7:00 PM Open Bar at Myrtle Beach
Elks Club furnished by
ACCS followed by the
"Banquet of the Sea" sea-
food dinner.
Guest Speaker:
Dr. Homeyer.

After dinner activities will
include a raffle, a plant
auction conducted by
"Robertson Mizzell and
Friends" and a slide show
by Marion Edwards

Last year over 100 members gathered
in Myrtle Beach for the annual
meeting. Make plans now to attend. A
letter will be forthcoming from ACCS
soon with more of the details. This
year's meeting should be the best ever.
Let's all plan to be there October 2-3.

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Jim Darden, Editor

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Clinton, N. C. 28328



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