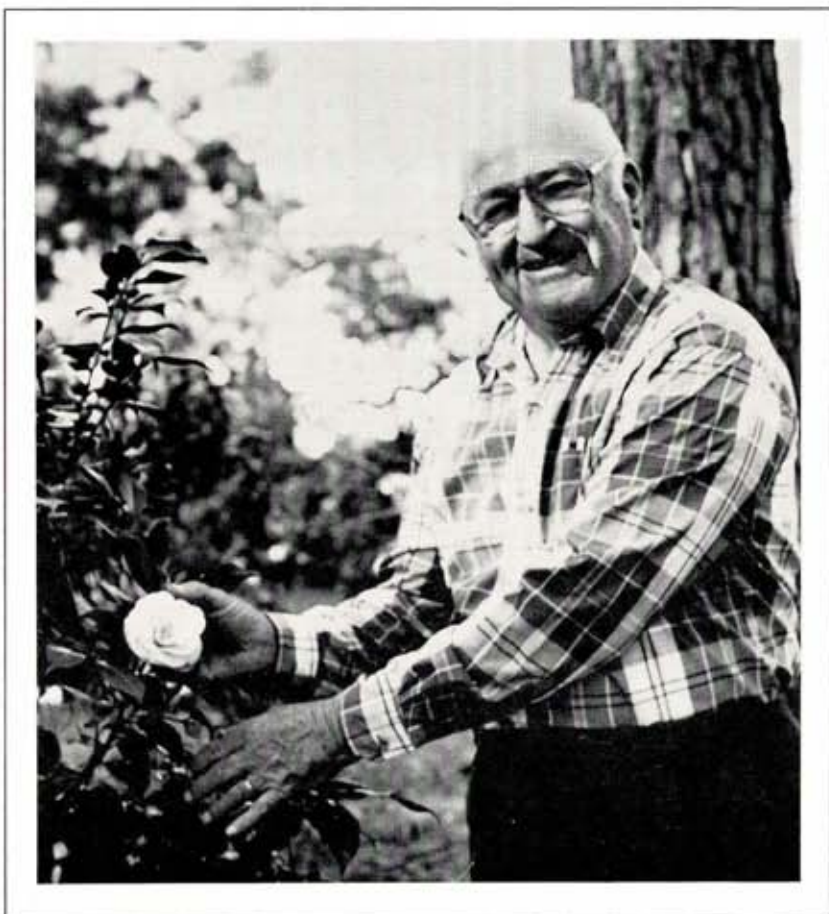


# Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



## **PARKER CONNOR, JR.**

*America's foremost outdoor Camellia grower.*

# ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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# The Advantages of *Camellia Sasanqua*

by Bill Miller  
Washington, D.C.

Former *Camellia Society* of the Potomac Valley President Bill Miller talked to Society members at the November meeting on the subject of *C. sasanqua*. Perhaps the chief reason why Bill likes this type of camellia so much is that it blooms in the fall, when few other flowers, with the exception of chrysanthemums, are coloring the landscape. In fact, if one keeps them in pots and chooses wisely, one can have *C. sasanqua* blooms for a period of almost three months right up to Christmas Day. True, such a production may require moving the potted plants into the house on cold nights and then putting them out again when temperatures moderate. But having all those wonderful blooms makes the exercise worth the effort.

Another advantage of *C. sasanqua* is that since they bloom in the fall, one does not have to worry about losing their blooms because of freezing weather. For the most part these plants bloom before freezing weather comes. During their dormancy, all one has to do is to keep the plants alive for the next season. A cool porch or a garage will give enough protection for potted plants.

*C. sasanqua* can even be used for specimen plants. Bill thinks they seem

to do best if planted in full sun. (He tries to give potted plants full sun too.) However, if used as specimen plants, they may need to be protected during the winter with Microfoam and plastic if they have no other protection.

In considering the diseases that often affect camellias, it is worth noting that *C. sasanqua* is not subject to such diseases as peony scale or dieback, which often affect, or may possibly destroy, *C. japonica*.

*C. sasanqua* sets seeds very readily, and it makes good understock on which to graft other types of camellias.

Bill thinks that one reason why *C. sasanqua* has not become more popular is that the blooms on most of them tend to be small and to shatter easily. ("Bonanza" is the only exception among the cultivars with which he is familiar.) Another reason for their lack of popularity is that we have not had big Fall Shows where their blooms can be shown. But that may change, for there will be a Fall Show in Baltimore in 1991, where both *C. japonica* (gibbed) and *C. sasanqua* will be included. It is hoped that that Show will recruit a good number of persons who will try their luck with growing *C. sasanqua*.

## Hilton Head To Host Camellia Show

The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society will have its first show at Hilton Head, S.C. on November 2, 1991, at Shelter Cove Mall. The show Chairman is Brett K. Toole. Coastal Carolina's second show will be January 25, 1992, Charleston, S.C., at Citadel Mall. Show Chairman is Geary Serpas.

# Profitable Azalea Varieties For The Eastern United States

by Jim Darden  
Clinton, N. C.

Having been a teacher of Horticulture at Sampson Community College for a dozen years and having grown up in the Azalea Belt along the southeastern Atlantic Coast, I have been interested in azaleas for many years. Several years ago I took that interest a step further and began growing azaleas in a small nursery.

By 1985, I had collected and photographed over 350 varieties of azaleas and, seeing no good, inexpensive, color consumer guide on the market, I published a book on the subject — *Great American Azaleas*.

The book has sold over 14,000 copies in 41 states and seven foreign countries. I am, however, not an "expert" on azaleas and still have lots of unanswered questions on the subject. When the "American Nurseryman" asked me to do an article on azaleas, I was quite flattered and happy to pursue some of the varietal information that growers, large and small, need to know before planning an azalea crop.

I agreed to gather data from azalea growers and retailers in several regions of the country. I created a survey form and contacted azalea people in the Mid-Atlantic area (Northern Virginia, Washington, D. C. Maryland), my area of North Carolina, and what I will call the Deep South (South Carolina and Georgia).

My objectives in this study were several. First, I wanted to determine which azalea varieties would be the best for a grower to produce, depending upon the geographical area of his target market. Secondly, which new and upcoming varieties might a grower be well advised to add to his

offering. Third, for a student or young azalea grower, which azalea varieties would be best for starting a new nursery.

Contact was made with growers and retailers of azaleas in the regions defined above. The retailers in each region were asked to give: (1) their three best selling azalea varieties in each color group, (2) their best three recommended azalea varieties, without regard to quantities sold, that they felt were good varieties for their area, and (3) their top ten best selling azalea varieties without regard to color.

Not all respondents listed six varieties in each of the #1 and #2 categories. Nonetheless, a value of six was given to the top choice, and a value of 1 was given to their sixth choice. For the top ten varieties, a value of ten was given to the best variety, and this progressed down to a value of one for the tenth variety named.

This study is not done to be scientifically sound but gives a good opinion base. I believe that garden centers do provide us with trends on azalea growing and patterns in azalea buying that can help us to produce and buy varieties of azaleas which are most likely to sell in our marketplace. It is in that sense that these findings might be of value to you.

Selecting the best azalea varieties to grow has always been something of a mystery for me. When I began growing azaleas ten years ago, I felt that I had to do something different, something that the other large established nurseries were not doing. After all, I wanted to fill a niche in the

marketplace. So I began growing the unusual varieties, those which were not household names in the garden centers.

This philosophy was fine, since there are many great azalea varieties that deserve more recognition than they presently enjoy. My mistake, however, was that I did not have a market for these varieties. I came to learn that the standard varieties command the greatest share of the market and they are the most likely source of revenue for most azalea producers. Reluctantly, I began to phase out many of the spectacular rare and unusual varieties and settle into growing the household names, such as Coral Bells, Hershey Red, Delaware Valley White, etc.

So much for my philosophies. What have we found in this limited study? Conducting a study such as this was a welcome exercise for me because I am interested in learning more about the azalea market in my region of the country. If you are an azalea producer, I'm sure you want to know what azalea varieties your clients want to grow. If you are a retailer, you will be interested in the varieties which will generate sales for you and new varieties which will be of interest to your clientele. Let's take a look at the results of my study.

In the Mid-Atlantic area I contacted four azalea retailers. In the southeastern region I contacted five and in North Carolina I contacted six retailers. Twelve wholesale azalea growers were surveyed in North Carolina. They were all members of the Johnston County Nurserymen's Association.

All of the respondents to the survey were knowledgeable horticulturists in whom I have considerable respect and whose judgment I would value for such

information. While the numerical sampling is admittedly small, the information gained herein is, in my opinion, representative of azalea varieties which could be, and are being, grown in the eastern United States profitably. The number following each varietal name indicated points given to that variety.

I am not suggesting that a nurseryman should, when selecting azalea varieties to grow, produce equal numbers of reds, whites, pinks, etc. To the contrary, red is the most popular color for us by far, and the purple varieties are the least popular. In order to rank the colors in an appropriate order, take a look at the overall best selling lists. This will help you to devote percentages of your crop to the various color groups.

### MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Most popular red:	Points
1. Hino Crimson	22
2. Hershey Red	17
3. Hinode-giri	11
4. Girards Scarlet	7
5. Mothers Day	7
6. Christmas Cheer	6
7. Red Red	4
8. Girards Crimson	2
9. Hexe	2

Most popular pink:	Points
1. Coral Bells	22
2. Girards Rose	12
3. Tradition	10
4. Nancy of Robin Hill	5
5. Wakebisu	5
6. Lady Robin	4
7. Pink Gumpo	4
8. Blaauw's Pink	3

Most popular orange/red:

1. Stewartstonian	23
2. Girards Hotshot	9
3. Fashion	6
4. Scout	5
5. Tropic Sun	5
6. Gillie	4
7. Hershey Orange	4
8. Sherwood Red	4
9. Garden State Glow	3
10. Macrantha Orange	3

Most popular variegated:

1. Conversation Piece	12
2. Fancy Pink Gumpo	6
3. Janet Rhea	6
4. Orange Flair	6
5. Silver Sword	6
6. Geisha	5
7. Hiewa	5
8. Issho-no-haru	4
9. Whitehead	3
10. Martha Hitchcock	2

Most popular lavender/purple:

1. Herbert	19
2. Purple Splendor	13
3. Poukhanese	10
4. Corsage	6
5. George Tabor	6
6. Girards Fuchsia	6
7. Merlin	5
8. Amoena	4
9. Dauntless	3
10. Royalty	3
11. Mildred Mae	2
12. Karen	1

Overall Best Selling:

1. Hino Crimson	18
2. Hershey Red	15
3. Delaware Valley White	10
4. Fashion	6
5. Pink Gumpo	6
6. White Gumpo	5
7. Coral Bells	4
8. Tradition	4
9. Glacier	3
10. Greeting	3
11. Girards Fuchsia	2
12. Mothers Day	2
13. Karen	1



Outstanding Camellia growers - Jim Pinkerton, Elliott Brogden (seated), and Harry Watson enjoy a Camellia banquet.

(Photo by Shepherd)



## NORTH CAROLINA GARDEN CENTERS

### Most popular red:

1. Hershey Red	31
2. Hino Crimson	26
3. Redwing	11
4. Sunglow	11
5. Hinode-giri	10
6. Christmas Cheer	7
7. Wolfpack	5
8. Hexe	3
9. Massasoit	2

### Most popular pink:

1. Coral Bells	30
2. Pink Ruffles	15
3. Pink Gumpo	9
4. Tradition	8
5. Chinsoy	6
6. Evensong	6
7. Wakebisu	5
8. Greeting	4
9. Mary Lynn	4
10. Macrantha Pink	3
11. Blaauw's Pink	2
12. Pink Clouds	2
13. Girards Renee Michelle	1

### Most popular white:

1. Delaware Valley	32
2. Snow	29
3. Mrs. G. G. Gerbing	18
4. H. H. Hume	6
5. Treasure	5
6. White Gumpo	5
7. Girards Kathy	3
8. Pleasant White	2

### Most popular orange/red:

1. Sherwood Red	23
2. Fashion	11
3. Stewartstonian	10
4. Hershey Orange	6
5. Trouper	6
6. Buccaneer	5
7. Amaghasa	4
8. Macrantha Orange	3

### Most popular lavender/purple:

1. Formosa	28
2. Easter Morn	11
3. George Tabor	10
4. Lavender	6
5. Karen	5
6. Mildred Mae	5
7. Purple Splendor	5
8. Poukhanense	4
9. Amoena	3
10. Herbert	2

### Most popular variegated:

1. Martha Hitchcock	18
2. Conversational Piece	11
3. Ben Morrison	9
4. Johga	6
5. Marian Lee	5
6. Aikoku	4

### Overall Best Selling:

1. Coral Bells	26
2. Hershey Red	15
3. Snow	14
4. Hino Crimson	9
5. Delaware Valley White	8
6. Sunglow	6
7. Pink Gumpo	5
8. White Gumpo	4
9. Aikoku	3
10. Hinode-giri	3
11. Kiewa	2
12. Wakebisu	1

## N. C. WHOLESALE GROWERS

### Most popular red:

1. Hino Crimson	55
2. Hershey Red	50
3. Sunglow	32
4. Hinode-giri	18
5. Christmas Cheer	12
6. Wolfpack Red	11
7. Redwing	4
8. Hexe	3
9. President Clay	3
10. Girards Crimson	2
11. Red Ruffles	2



**Most popular pink:**

1. Coral Bells	49
2. Pink Gumpo	37
3. Pink Pearl	18
4. Pink Ruffles	12
5. Higasa	11
6. Rosebud	8
7. Laura	7
8. Boudoir	6
9. Chinsoy	5
10. Salmon Bells	5
11. Pink Cloud	4
12. Shin-ki-gem	4
13. Tradition	4
14. Dawn	3
15. Girards Rose	3
16. Greeting	3
17. Wakebisu	3
18. Girards Scarlet	2
19. Pride of Summerville	1

**Most popular white:**

1. Delaware Valley White	51
2. Snow	29
3. White Gumpo	30
4. H. H. Hume	18
5. Glacier	14
6. Mrs. G. G. Gerbing	13
7. Girards Kathy	3
8. Kehr's Rosebud White	2

**Most popular orange/red:**

1. Sherwood Red	24
2. Amaghasa	11
3. Buccaneer	11
4. Flame	6
5. Fashion	5
6. Macrantha Orange	5
7. Girards Hotshot	4

**Most popular lavender/purple:**

1. Formosa	24
2. George Tabor	21
3. Purple Splendor	16
4. Poukhanense	11
5. Cochran's Lavender	5
6. Easter Morn	5
7. Mildred	5
8. Herbert	4
9. Apple Blossom	3
10. Merlin	3

**Most popular variegated:**

1. Martha Hitchcock	11
2. Festive	6
3. Conversation Piece	6
4. Ben Morrison	5
5. Shin-ki-gem	5
6. Fascination	4
7. Keisetsu	4
8. Frosted Orange	3

**Overall best selling:**

1. Delaware Valley White	37
2. Snow	37
3. Coral Bells	32
4. Hershey Red	28
5. Hino Crimson	24
6. Hinode-giri	23
7. Glacier	14
8. George Tabor	13
9. Sunglow	13
10. Christmas Cheer	12
11. Formosa	11
12. Pink Gumpo	10
13. White Gumpo	10
14. H. H. Hume	9
15. Mrs. G. G. Gerbing	7
16. Higasa	6
17. Wolfpack Red	6
18. Pink Ruffles	5
19. Redwing	3
20. Shin-ki-gem	3
21. Greenthumb Peppermint	2
22. Mother's Day	2
23. Amaghasa	1

**DEEP SOUTH****Most popular red:**

1. Hino Crimson	16
2. Hinode-giri	16
3. Christmas Cheer	12
4. President Clay	8
5. Hershey Red	5
6. Massasoit	5
7. Red Ruffles	5
8. Redwing	5
9. Nico	4
10. Mother's Day	3

Most popular pink:	
1. Coral Bells	30
2. Pink Gumpo	14
3. Wakebisu	7
4. Pink Ruffles	5
5. Pride of Mobile	5
6. Pride of Summerville	4
7. Rosebud	4
8. Southern Charm	4
9. Hampton Beauty	3
10. Laura	3
11. Sherwood Cerise	3
12. Judge Solomon	2
13. Princess Augusta	2
14. Willie B. Mayo	2

Most popular white:	
1. Snow	25
2. Mrs. G. G. Gerbing	22
3. H. H. Hume	10
4. Delaware Valley White	9
5. White Gumpo	9
6. Fielder's White	4
7. Glacier	2

Most popular orange/red:	
1. Fashion	17
2. Sherwood Red	16
3. Hershey Orange	5
4. Price of Summerville	5
5. Macrantha Orange	4
6. Trouper	4
7. Stewartstonian	3

Most popular lavender/purple:	
1. Formosa	29
2. George Tabor	26
3. Mildred	12
4. Herbert	3

Most popular variegated:	
1. Iveryana	12
2. Gyrokuskin	10
3. Conversation Piece	6
4. Gwenda	6
5. Vervaine	5
6. Festive	4
7. Myogi	4

Overall best selling:	
1. Coral Bells	29
2. Snow	16
3. Formosa	13
4. George Tabor	12
5. Mrs. G. G. Gerbing	8
6. Hershey Red	5
7. Pink Gumpo	5
8. Hinode-giri	4
9. Sherwood Red	3
10. Red Ruffles	2

## OBSERVATIONS

1. In the Mid-Atlantic region — the varieties with greater cold hardiness prevailed. Red varieties Hino Crimson and Hershey Red were most popular, with Delaware Valley White close behind. The gumpos, both pink and white, made a strong showing. Rosebud was conspicuously absent, probably because pink varieties with better foliage and blooms are finding a place in the market. Rosebud continues to be popular, and has unquestioned cold tolerance. Some retailers seemed content to sell the old standards while others aggressively pursue a market in the new and

improved varieties. Name recognition seems to be holding the older varieties on the market while most nurserymen know that better varieties are available. Helmut Jaehnigen at Behnke's Nursery is very high on Girards Fuchsia. Having seen this variety at the NCAN Show in January, I must agree with him. It has been sturdy, has the full shape and foliage of Mother's Day, and the bloom of Purple Splendor. The Girards seem to be a fine up-and-coming group. Six were mentioned, including Girards Rose, Hotshot, Crimson, Scarlet, Kathy, and Pleasant White. I concur, this group performs wonderfully in my nursery.

2. In North Carolina — Southern Indicas make a strong appearance here but they cannot push the Kurumes off the top of the mountain. Kurumes Coral Bells, Hershey Red, and Hino Crimson head the list. Coral Bells made an even better showing than I expected. Sunglow, probably the best of the N.C. State University "Carla" hybrids, was very well liked. Again the gumpos were strong. Southern Indicas, Formosa, George Tabor, and Mrs. G. G. Gerbing (the white sport of George Tabor) were all popular. The latter two are extremely cold hardy, and are the only Southern Indicas to be named frequently in the Mid-Atlantic region. Again, nurserymen don't like the standard varieties as well as the newer and lesser-known introductions, but they "bite the bullet" and order the old standards because they have market recognition and continue to sell well. North Carolina growers understandably favor the hardier varieties and dwell less on the Southern Indicas, since many grow for the northern market. Bill Wilder, our fine Executive Director of the NCAN and azalea grower in Knightdale, NC, is particularly fond of the new variety Greenthumb Peppermint.

3. In the deeper South — Garden center operators favor the Southern Indicas, particularly Formosa. They dislike varieties which lose foliage during the winter, such as Delaware Valley White and Glacier. They want well foliated plants for winter and spring sales. Coral Bells was particularly strong in the pinks, garnering first place in the pink category on all five surveys. Pink Gumpo, somewhat surprisingly, was second, indicating the Gumpos are becoming immensely popular everywhere. Again, the standard azalea varieties are tolerated because they sell, not because they are the best. The buyers in the marketplace

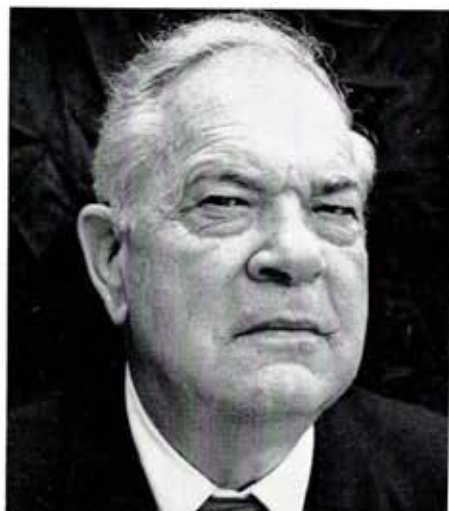
are accustomed to them, and, "monkey see, monkey do" is how one garden center owner described his customers' preferences.

One final tabulation was made. The totals from all three regions were combined for the benefit of anyone growing azaleas on the east coast with no particular market in mind. I would strongly urge anyone starting out in this business to target a market and grow varieties popular there. But, it is interesting to note the most popular azaleas from Maryland to Georgia.

The most popular azalea varieties as reported by 27 nurserymen and garden centers along the Atlantic Coast of the United States, were:

	Points
1. Coral Bells	91
2. Snow	67
3. Hershey Red	63
4. Delaware Valley White	56
5. Hino Crimson	51
6. Hinode-giri	30
7. Pink Gumpo	26
8. George Tabor	25
9. Formosa	24
10. Sunglow	19
11. White Gumpo	19
12. Glacier	17
13. Mrs. G. G. Gerbing	15
14. Christmas Cheer	12
15. H. H. Hume	9
16. Fashion	6
17. Higasa	6
18. Wolfpack Red	6
19. Pink Ruffles	5
20. Tradition	4

*Jim Darden is Chairman of the Horticulture Technology Department, Sampson Community College, Clinton, NC*



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

MARION EDWARDS  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Dear Members:

You should receive this Fall edition of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Journal several weeks prior to the eleventh annual meeting of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in Myrtle Beach, SC on October 4 and 5. If you have not made your reservations yet, I urge you to do so as soon as possible. Our meetings are always a fun-filled get together, meeting with old friends and making new ones. I would personally guarantee you a good time or double your money back but my wife won't let me. The Independent Holiday Inn can accommodate 160 guests, we had 110 members at our meeting in 1990. We need for those 110 to return this year plus 50 additional members to fill the motel.

The meeting commences on Friday afternoon with a cocktail party and a buffet around the swimming pool. The food for the buffet is provided by our members and the ladies do an outstanding job on the dishes they bring. Hawaiian Luau is the theme for the costume party this year so iron the flashy shirts and dust off the grass skirts and bring them along.

The bloody mary party and General Business Meeting will be held on

Saturday morning. The Annual Banquet, slide show, raffle of a camellia painting by Sadie Aycok Lyon and auction will be held on Saturday night. Please bring something for the auction. The auction is not limited to camellia plants, other plants as well as hand-crafted items and food can be sold by our auctioneers for a good price.

The principal speaker on Saturday morning is Dr. Jerome Hogsette, Jr. of Gainesville, Florida. Jerry is a new member of our Society and this will be his first meeting. Jerry is the type of person that all camellia societies are looking for; he is young, has been severely bitten by the camellia bug and is Show Chairman for the Gainesville Show to be held in January. I am sure all members will give Jerry a warm welcome but of more importance to Jerry is the support from our members for the Gainesville Show.

Last year was very hot and very dry but we had one of the best seasons yet for unprotected blooms. So far this year it has been very hot with normal rainfall in some areas and way above normal in other areas. Jacksonville has had 48 inches of rain during the first six months, this is twice the average

rainfall and four times the amount received during the first six months of 1990. The plants have put on a lot of new growth and bloom buds are coming early. This blooming season could be as good or better than last year. The only drawback to all of the rainfall and warmer than normal temperatures is the dieback. This is the worst year for dieback I have experienced in my twenty-four years of living in Jacksonville.

I hope you have started gibbing bloom buds early for the two shows to be held in October. The Second Annual Show at the Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA. is to be held on October 11-12. The First annual show in 1990 was a huge success with 539 entries. The other show in October will be held at the South Carolina State Fair, Columbia, SC on October 26-27.

This was also a great show in 1990 with 685 entries.

Be sure to note November 2-3 on your calendar. This will be the dates for the First Camellia Show to be held on Hilton Head Island. All members should support this show and help it get off to a good start.

Roan Mountain is located on the North Carolina-Tennessee state line and 600 acres of the top of the mountain are covered with native *Rhododendron catawbiense*. Delores and I were there on June 19 when the bloom was at it's peak. Will tell you more about both Roan Mountain and Craggy Gardens at Myrtle Beach.

See you at Myrtle Beach,

Marion



Camellia lovers Mildred Robertson, Harry Watson, and Bill Shepherd enjoy good food and fellowship at the annual Mizzell cookout at Santee, S. C.

(Photo by Shepherd)

# COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW

Charleston, SC

January 26, 1991

Best Bloom in show grown in Open:

Large	<i>Tiffany</i>	Pete Lambrakos Mt. Pleasant, SC
Medium	<i>Feathery Touch</i>	Parker Connor, Jr. Edisto Island, SC
Small	<i>Tom Thumb</i>	Elliott P. Brogden Columbia, SC
Runner up: Large	<i>Julia France</i>	T. E. Powers Wilmington, NC
Medium	<i>Ville de Nantes</i>	Elizabeth Brown Hilton Head, SC
Small	<i>Purity</i>	Louise and Roy Homans Brunswick, GA
Best bloom in show grown under protection:		
Large	<i>Tomorrow's Dawn</i>	Mrs. Alfred Bissell Aiken, SC
Medium	<i>Betty Sheffield Supreme</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
Small	<i>Kay Berridge</i>	Annabelle Fetterman Clinton, NC
Runner up: Large	<i>Tomorrow Park Hill</i>	Mr./Mrs. Oliver Mizzell Elloree, SC
Medium	<i>Dawn's Early Light</i>	Clara and Fred Hahn Charlotte, NC
Small	<i>Black Tie</i>	Annabelle Fetterman Clinton, NC
Best Seedling	<i>Bill Courson</i>	George Gerbing Millwood, GA
Best Hybrid in Open	<i>Jubilation</i>	Paul and Mary Wilson Clearwater, Fla.
Best Hybrid Protected	<i>Mona Jury</i>	Mr./Mrs. Oliver Mizzell Elloree, SC
Best Reticulator in Open	<i>Francie L.</i>	M. S. Edwards Jacksonville, Fla.
Best Reticulator Protected	<i>Hall's Pride</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
Best Miss Charleston in Open		Parker Connor, Jr. Edisto Island, SC
Best Miss Charleston Protected		Annabelle Fetterman Clinton, NC
Best Novice Bloom	<i>Dixie Knight Supreme</i>	A. P. Morton Charleston, SC
Best White Bloom Protected	<i>Ruffian</i>	Ann and Mack McKinnon Lugoff, SC
Best White Bloom in Open	<i>Seafoam</i>	Parker Connor, Jr. Edisto Island, SC

Best Miniature	<i>Tammia</i>	Parker Connor, Jr. Edisto Island, SC
Court of Honor: Open	<i>Margaret Davis</i>	Louise and Roy Homans Brunswick, GA
	<i>Pirates Gold</i>	Parker Connor, Jr. Edisto Island, SC
	<i>Donckelarii</i>	Elizabeth Brown Hilton Head, SC
	<i>Clark Hubbs</i>	Albert V. Ewan Charleston, SC
	<i>Mathotiana</i>	Paul and Mary Wilson Clearwater, Fla.
	<i>William Forrest Bray - Var.</i>	Ivan Mitchell Melrose, Fla.
Runner Up Court: Open	<i>Tom Knudsen</i>	W. Lee Poe Aiken, SC
	<i>Margaret Davis Picotee</i>	Ivan Mitchell Melrose, Fla.
	<i>Gulio Nuccio Var.</i>	Ivan Mitchell Melrose, Fla.
	<i>Betty Sheffield Silver</i>	Paul and Mary Wilson Clearwater, Fla.
	<i>Vulcan - Var.</i> <i>Tiffany</i>	Elliott P. Brogden A. A. Muckenfuss Summerville, SC
Court of Honor: Protected	<i>Dahlonga</i>	Annabelle Fetterman Clinton, NC
	<i>Ernest Aycock</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Dr. Bob</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Show Time</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Helen Bower</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Mrs. R. L. Wheeler</i>	Ann and Mack McKinnon Lugoff, SC
Runner Up Court: Protected	<i>Betty Sheffield</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Mathotianna Supreme - Var.</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Silver Cloud</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Carter's Sunburst Pink</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Tomorrow - Var.</i> <i>Ville de Nantes</i>	Mr./Mrs. Oliver Mizzell Elloree, SC Clara and Fred Hahn Charlotte, NC
Sweepstakes:		
In Open		Parker Connor, Jr., Edisto Island, SC
Protected		Jim Pinkerton, Lugoff, SC
Runner Up Sweepstakes:		
In Open		Elizabeth Brown, Hilton Head, SC
Protected		Annabelle Fetterman, Clinton, NC

# CONNOR TAKES HIS CAMELLIAS SERIOUSLY

by Laynie Chinnors  
Edisto Islander

"You know," says Edisto's Parker Connor, "for a hobby, this sure has gotten to be a lot of work." And most any person would agree.

But most any person would also agree that the retired U. S. Army Lieutenant Colonel thrives on the competition and praises that his award-winning camellias provide for him.

Many weekends Connor, along with about 110 of his beauties, hits the road to enter camellia shows anywhere from Florida to North Carolina. And he returns to his Oak Island Plantation

home with yet even more blue ribbons. He's been entering competitions since 1982, and he's won the gold sweepstakes award for the most blue ribbons at every show. "Also, I've won the best flower category at every show this year. But I don't mean to brag," he quickly adds with a grin.

But he's earned that right. The 73-year-old spends at least three hours every day tending to his 500 camellia plants. "I only have 400 different varieties but I duplicate some of my favorites," he says. He decides which varieties to grow by

Parker Connor meticulously prepares his blooms for a show in Perry, Georgia.

(Photo by Shepherd)







Fun is had by all during a Camellia cookout at the fabulous Oak Island Plantation home of Parker and Amy Connor.

(Photo by Shepherd)



keeping close track of how many times each kind wins.

Connor keeps five refrigerators in his basement, filling them up with clippings one at a time until show time. Then, the camellias, with grapes on the ends of their stems to keep them fresh, are carefully packed in refrigerator boxes with cold packs.

"I really just do all this for fun. Why, I have a reputation to uphold now," he laughs. "I've really got too many prizes. I don't need another plaque or crystal set. But I do like to win."

"There is something to do every month of the year. And this is the

busiest time," he explains, "with shows, pruning and fertilizing."

Needless to say, Connor takes this business seriously. In early September, he gibbs so that he can have bigger and better blooms in time for the season's first show in October. The flowers bloom October through March. Gibbing involves treating the buds with gibberellic acid, a growth hormone.

Connor's wife, Amy Sadler Connor, does her part as well. As head of the flower committee for the Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island, she arranges the blooms in beautiful bouquets to

make certain the church is never without blossoms. Quite often, Connor himself pleases the women of the church by presenting them with a bloom of their own.

Connor explains that Edisto is a perfect place to grow camellias. "They like half shade, high humidity, acidic soil, damp ground and temperatures not dipping below 20 degrees.

There are already 5,000 varieties of camellias in existence and each enthusiast dreams of introducing a new one worthy of recognition. "But it would have to be something really special," he states, looking on disapprovingly at a recent attempt. Connor attempts to do this through grafting, a process in which the stem

of a cutting is sliced at an angle and secured to the sliced stem of an existing plant so that the two cambium layers meet.

Connor says that if you ever hear of a camellia named "Miss Oak Island" or "Amy" something or other, then you'll know that he succeeded.

The meticulous gentleman developed his interest in the flowers by listening to his grandfather talk of the showplace of a garden that existed at Oak Island prior to the Civil War. Oak Island was completed in 1828 by Connor's great-great-grandfather William Seabrook and the formal garden was laid out in 1830 in English style and featured thousands of roses. Japanese gardeners soon added their



The lovely home of Parker and Amy Connor, located on Oak Island near Edisto Beach, S. C., and built in 1828.

(Photo by Billie Lee)

influence as well, constructing a water garden.

Two huge camellia shrubs remain as relics from the original gardens. The largest has a trunk measuring more than 64 inches around and is the biggest one known to exist in the United States.

Connor grew up on Oak Island and, under the watchful eye of his grandfather, learned gardening during his

summers with him in North Carolina. When he was only 12, his grandfather gave him the plantation.

"Since then, I hoped of restoring the gardens to a semblance of what they once were. Of course, I never really did," he says. But some would beg to differ. He has brought beauty back to Oak Island in his own right and has made Edistonians proud.

\* \* \* \* \*



Amy and Parker, at home under the ancient live oaks at Oak Island Plantation.

(Photo by Billie Lee)

# FAYETTEVILLE CAMELLIA SHOW

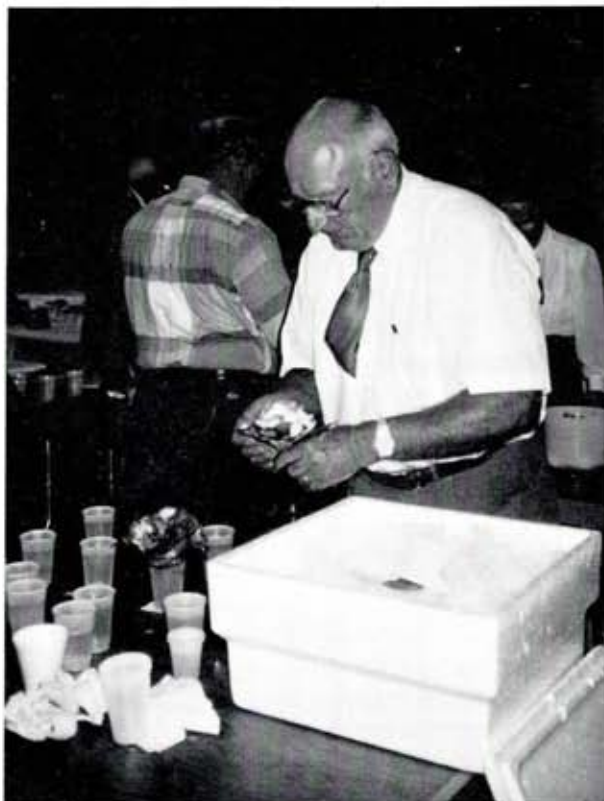
Fayetteville, NC

March 2-3, 1991

C. japonica (In Open) Very Large	<i>Veiled Beauty Var.</i>	Parker Connor Edisto Island, SC
Runner-up	<i>Tiffany Var.</i>	Donna & Bill Shepherd N. Charleston, SC
Medium	<i>Ville de Nantes</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Racoff Columbia, SC
Small	<i>Pink Perfection</i>	Joe Tomasson Fayetteville, NC
C. japonica (Protected) Very Large	<i>Helen Bower Var.</i>	Ray Bond Raleigh, NC
Medium	<i>Ville de Nantes</i>	Harry Watson Charlotte, NC
Small	<i>Jessie Connor</i>	Clara & Fred Hahn Charlotte, NC
Miniature	<i>Dr. Bob</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
C. reticulata Protected	<i>Blair Brown</i>	Joe Austin Four Oaks, NC
C. hybrid In Open	<i>Elsie Jury</i>	Ray Bond Raleigh, NC
Best Collection of 3 alike In Open	<i>Ville de Nantes</i>	Bill Anderson Fayetteville, NC
Protected	<i>Jean Pursel</i>	Joe Austin Four Oaks, NC
Tray of 5 Different		Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
Best Bloom by Novice	<i>Don Mac</i>	Pat Johnson Fayetteville, NC
Gold Certificates In open, won by Parker Connor, Edisto Island, SC Protected, won by Mr. & Mrs. Lester Allen, Greensboro		
Court of Honor In Open	<i>Glen 40</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Racoff Columbia, SC
	<i>Gee Homeyer</i>	Parker Connor Edisto Island, SC
Protected	<i>Nuccio's Pink Lace</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Curtain Call</i>	Clara & Fred Hahn Charlotte, NC
	<i>Elegans Splendor</i>	Ray Bond Raleigh, NC
	<i>Mona Jury Var.</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC
	<i>Tammia</i>	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, SC

Geary Serpas, our chief judge, did a fine job at the Fayetteville Camellia Show in 1991.

(Photo by Shepherd)



Clara Hahn works the nomenclature cards in one of last year's shows.

(Photo by Shepherd)

# Winter Acclimation

Dr. T. E. Bilderback  
N. C. State University

The process of hardening plants and/or inducing dormancy requires that many conditions are proper at the same time. Interaction between photoperiod (length-of-day) and temperature are important in inducing winter hardiness and dormancy. Winter Hardiness and dormancy involve several processes within plants which affect cell membranes, leaf coloration and abscission in deciduous plants and energy storage. Fall cultural practices such as fertilizer application, irrigation, pruning, digging and light intensity can affect these internal hardening processes. Failing to provide proper conditions by poorly managing any one of these factors can predispose nursery crops to winter injury.

## Cultural Factors

**Fertilizer:** Plants receiving balanced nutrition have the best chance of withstanding winter conditions. Growers using granular and liquid fertilizer programs that result in soluble fertilizer available immediately to the plant need to begin withholding fertilizer about 6 weeks before their average first frost date. Nurserymen using slow release fertilizers face the difficulty of keeping plants growing vigorously late into the season but not so late as to prevent acclimation. Tender growth caused by high or fluctuating rates of nitrogen fertilizer late in the season may prevent hardening. The nitrogen source is also important to consider. Nitrate-nitrogen is readily available to plants for uptake. High nitrate levels may stimulate new shoot growth. Ammonium-nitrogen is also available to plants for uptake but is more readily used after nitrification or ammonium-N to nitrate-N. Nitrifi-

cation of slow release ammonium nitrogen fertilizers to nitrate-nitrogen is largely reduced when the growing medium is cool.

Generally information discussing fall fertility programs suggest increasing potassium (K) levels to promote cell permeability associated with avoidance of cellular freeze damage. Although much information on this practice is conflicting, maintaining adequate tissue potassium levels is considered advisable. Foliar analysis from the NCDA Plant and Soil Testing Lab indicate that potassium foliar levels should be approximately 1.5 to 2.5% tissue dry weight for most woody ornamentals and that soil test index value of approximately 50 is adequate. If foliar or soil levels are well below these values, winter hardiness may be improved by applying potassium. Nurserymen wishing to apply complete NPK fertilizer in the fall should wait until above ground plant parts are fully dormant. After deciduous plants have dropped their leaves, fall fertilizer application is usually considered safe. A moderate level of balanced fertilizer should not cause plants to break dormancy or reduce hardiness at this time.

**Water:** Both too much and too little water during the latter part of the growing season can reduce the winter hardiness of nursery crops. Regular irrigation during the growing season is necessary for maximum growth and proper nutrient availability. If fertilizer has not been released during the summer due to lack of water then it may become available during September rains creating a flush of growth that won't acclimate before cold weather.

Irrigation frequency for containers should be reduced in the fall; however, enough water should be applied with each irrigation to cause some water to leach from the bottom of the container. Research has shown that plants subjected to very dry conditions during the fall will be less able to withstand severe winter conditions than those receiving reduced irrigation even if ample water is provided in early winter. Decreased survival is linked to reduced energy storage. Drought conditions in the fall reduce root storage and plants may not accumulate enough stored energy for bud break and shoot expansion in the spring.

Where plants are over-wintered in the open, occasional irrigation during the winter is required. Plant survival may be increased if containers are irrigated before a cold period which is expected to drop temperatures low enough to freeze the growing medium.

Applying irrigation as a winter protection technique over outdoor growing blocks is only feasible if plants have shoot growth that is not quite hardened and temperatures are expected to drop near freezing. This technique is frequently used with peaches, apples and strawberries in spring to protect flower buds from freezing. For nursery crops, this procedure can be successful in fall and spring to avoid damage to soft shoot growth. To be successful, irrigation must be applied before ambient temperatures reach 32° and be continued usually through several daylight hours the next day until ice begins to melt. If discontinued before this time, freeze damage is still likely to occur. "Icing in" woody nursery crops also has disadvantages such as limb breakage due to the heavy coat of ice. Unprotected plants with soft shoot growth which suffer an early fall or late spring frost will generally

lose the current flush. If soft shoot extension is 6 inches or more growers may need to prune off dead growth. Application of a fungicide would be beneficial in either case. The following flush usually produces multiple shoots from each shoot apex.

**Pruning:** Late season pruning may stimulate bud break resulting in new growth that will not harden-off before cold weather. Avoiding pruning within 6 weeks of the average first frost date is usually adequate. Another consideration is that extensive late fall pruning creates wounds which will not close until active growth begins in Spring. This may increase the opportunity for decay organisms to become established in the wounds.

### **Environmental Effects**

**Light:** Both light intensity and duration affect dormancy. Plants in the shade acclimate more slowly than those in the sun. For this reason, mountain growers remove shade in September to help harden plants. For example, the base of a plant as it enters the soil or potting medium is the last portion of the stem to attain full winter hardiness. Early frosts may cause bark splitting in this region of the stem. Removing shade in the fall induces more rapid acclimation and decreases the potential for this injury. However, in piedmont and coastal nurseries considerable growth occurs through the fall. Removing shade from actively growing shoots may cause sunscald on succulent shoots accustomed to shade. Although timing is critical, a window in time after new growth hardens but before extended cold periods may be available to remove shade and increase hardiness.

Plants that are to be moved to sheltered, shaded areas during the winter should be fully hardened before

being moved. Mulching for winter protection should be done only after plants are hardened by initial frosts and shorter days. Mulching may insulate the plants and reduce acclimation.

Supplemental lighting should also be turned off in the fall if plants are to be wintered in unheated areas. Shorter days are just as essential as reduced fertility, irrigation and temperatures if a plant is to harden properly.

**Temperature:** As temperatures cool, plant growth slows and many nursery plants begin winter acclimation and dormancy. Cool temperatures and shorter day lengths initiate the first phase of hardening which allows plants to withstand a frost but not a hard freeze. To become fully acclimated so that they can tolerate the cold associated with their hardiness zone, nursery crops require exposure to temperatures between 40°F and 32°F followed by temperatures slightly below freezing.

Prolonged periods of warm weather after plants become fully hardened can cause them to lose some degree of hardiness even if all other factors are favorable.

Shoots, roots, and buds differ in their ability to withstand cold temperatures. Flower buds are often killed while leaf buds are unharmed. Roots are often damaged at higher temperatures than shoots on the same plants. Plants not normally hardy at your nursery and container grown ornamentals, must be protected during the winter. Container grown plants or plants that aren't fully dormant need more protection than is reflected in a plant hardiness zone map.

### Winter Damage

**Frost Burn:** Damage can occur when frost forms on leaves of evergreen plants such as hemlock, mountain laurel, azaleas, rhododendrons, camellia, osmanthus and other

evergreens. If frost covered shoots are exposed to bright sunlight, freeze damage or "burn" may be observed. Foliage usually turns bright yellow in a few days due to chlorophyll degradation. This damage is usually easy to diagnose because the inner leaves, i. e., those in the shade, are not affected. There is no long-term damage from this kind of injury. Once normal growing conditions resume in the spring, leaves will return to a normal green color.

**Wind burn/desiccation:** When plants lose moisture through leaves more rapidly than the moisture can be replaced by roots, permanent damage can occur. On broad-leaved evergreens, this will result in curled leaves with dead brown tips or edges. On boxwood and conifers there may be a bronzing of foliage before leaf tips turn brown or black.

Drying out or winter desiccation causes more loss in uncovered nursery stock than freeze injury. Although this condition is expected in very windy locations cold, sunny days with minimal wind can also cause severe desiccation. This injury is not always fatal, however plants may not be salable in the spring. If soil or media become frozen, no moisture is available to leaves and shoots. When this occurs, plants can be killed to the soil line and totally desiccated even though temperatures weren't low enough to kill plants otherwise. Death of plants around the edge of seedbeds and transplant beds that are left unmulched in the winter are often due to drying out.



# 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 \$12.50 for singles or couples. The membership year runs from September to September. A membership entitles you to three issues of Atlantic Coast Camellias, the journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. These are issued January 1 (spring), May 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:

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# SASANQUA CAMELLIAS

by Dr. Percy Jenkins  
Melbourne, Australia

The autumn season of the year is the time when the Sasanqua variety of flowers (mostly Hexaploids) dominate the Camellia landscape.

Though there are only hundreds of varieties of Sasanquas against thousands of Japonicas, Sasanquas make a valuable and healthy contribution to any Camellia collection. They are most floriferous, though mostly the flowers shatter quickly and easily. However, there are so many buds bursting in succession that the flowers are rapidly replaced, making a continuous floral display amongst beautiful dark green, shiny, sunhardy foliage.

Some Camelliaphile Sasanqua detractors regard them only in terms of good root stock for grafting of the more popular Japonicas and Reticulatas. This is because of the strong growth, natural resistance to root rots, and greater adaptability of the Sasanqua plants to heavier soils.

To me it is unfair to diminish the importance of Sasanquas as they are all very pretty — especially on the bush or in baskets — and their beautiful foliage (often pendulous) is attractive for the whole year. The foliage itself can be mixed to advantage in table decorations with other cut flowers — pictures of Sasanqua foliage and flowers illustrating the Japanese tea ceremonies are particularly charming.

Mary and I have found room for 20 Sasanquas in our garden. They are mostly growing over fences (*Showa-No-Sakae*, *Sparkling Burgandy*, *Chansonette*, *Jenifer Susan*, *Frivolity*, *Lucinda*, *Bert Jones*, and *Peerless*); on a bush in the ground (*Yuletide*, *Fuji-No-Mine*, *Apple Blossom*, *Shishi Gishira*, *Mignon*, and *Hiryu*); or in baskets (*Plantation Pink* and *Peerless*); and *Tanya* is against the brick wall of the house. Two plants of *Star Above Star* are in pots and *Bonanza* is planted in a rockery. *Beatrice Emily* is close to the house.

When I am asked which of these varieties I like best, I find it very difficult

to choose as they all have their individual attractive features. For the show bench I suppose *Yuletide*, *Bert Jones*, and *Star Above Star* win the most prizes awarded by our judges in Melbourne. There is no stronger grower or better grafting stock than *Hiryu* (*Australian Kanjiro*). *Mignon* is good for picking as the flower lasts for some days in a vase of water; *Shishi Gishira* is a slow grower but a beautiful bush.

*Chansonette* is the loveliest formal flowers on the bush, but it shatters so easily that I am seldom successful in picking, transporting, and placing it on the show bench in one piece.

I would like to grow other Sasanqua varieties, but it is not possible with the limited area available in our garden. Amongst others I have always particularly admired is *Mini-No-Yuki* with its pendulous branches of pure white double flowers contrasting with the shiny dark green small leaves. It looks especially attractive in an unruly garden.

I note that the Peer Sasanqua Award has been won by *Chansonette*, *Yuletide*, *Star Above Star*, and *Bonanza* from the varieties we have in our garden collection.

Some are said to be hybrids *Vernalis species* but because of their mostly hexaploid genetic chromosomal makeup they do not hybridize freely with Japonicas, which are diploid. Good luck growers of Sasanquas! Perhaps some one will produce a plant of this variety in Melbourne of world distinction as has been done with Reticulatas and Japonicas. Not forgetting that the well known, beautiful *Peerless* with its bright pink, loose peony flowers was introduced by those doyens of our group, Beryl and Edgar Sebire.

<sup>1</sup> Editor's Note: This article, by Dr. Jercy Jenkins of Melbourne, Australia, appeared in the NEWSLETTER of the Australian Camellia Society for April, 1986, pages 10 and 11.

# Gibbing For Autumn Blooms

by James E. McCormack  
Pioneer Camellia Society  
Baltimore, Maryland

Treatment of part of your camellia flower buds with gibberellic acid in August and September (or anytime in Fall & Winter) makes it possible for you to get blooms before cold weather as well as at the usual time for blooms in April. In most cases the flowers forced into bloom in the fall will be larger, prettier, and longer lasting than those produced at the normal blooming time in the spring.

To have camellias in bloom before the first freeze, you should begin treating flower buds in August, possibly as early as the tenth if flower buds have developed enough. Early gibbing is indicated particularly for midseason and late blooming plants that respond slowly, if at all, to gibbing. A difference of a week or so in the time of treatment can affect results. It is, therefore, suggested that the treatment of buds of outdoor growing plants be spread out at weekly intervals from about August 10 to September 15, with the later treatments limited to varieties that generally respond most quickly. As a general rule, varieties classified in "Camellia Nomenclature" as early blooming or early to midseason have the quickest and most consistent response to gibbing.

Success in developing gibbed blooms depends very largely on

maintaining a healthy continuous development of the flower buds both before and after they are gibbed. Any moisture stress, either in early summer when flower buds are developing or later after applying gibberellic acid, will retard growth and developmental and thus delay flowering. Be sure to water thoroughly during any dry spells in July through October.

Gibbing a flower bud is a simple process. First, select the largest, most mature flower buds. Disbud, if necessary, to retain only one flower bud at each terminal. Break out the adjacent growth bud by a twisting or wiggling motion and apply a drop of the gib solution at the point of removal, as illustrated. If the growth bud is small and difficult to remove, it may be pulled away with your thumbnail or a knife. The gib solution is then applied at the point of removal. One application of solution is ample. If several flower buds appear together at a terminal, all of the flower and growth buds, except the most promising flower bud, should be removed. Gib solution should then be applied to all the exposed tissue.

The gibberellic acid solution should be kept in a refrigerator (not a freezer) when not being used.

# Moving Large Camellias

by Ann Richardson

Huntington Gardens

Southern California Camellia Society

Arcadia, California

There are many large camellias in the Huntington Camellia Gardens. The one with the largest trunk — 12 inches across at its base — is a 100 year old 'Pink Perfection', the oldest on the grounds. Moving such a camellia to another location is a big task, and for obvious reasons, I would never consider moving the 'Pink Perfection', but there are times when a large plant has to be relocated.

I have removed many large camellias at the Gardens, but rarely have tried to save them because most were duplicates. Space is at a premium and duplicates have to give way to introductions not in our collection. Plants that I do save tend to be no larger than what will fit into a 15 gallon container. Their chances of survival appear greater than camellias of a larger size.

Moving a large camellia requires some considered thought beforehand, with no guarantee it will survive. A large camellia has an extensive root system and it is impossible to save it all. One doesn't know what condition the rootball is in until it comes out of the ground. Numerous tiny feeder roots need to be present in large enough quantities for a successful transplant. An older camellia usually has many long large roots with feeder roots coming off in scattered places. The goal, then, is to dig up a camellia that has sufficient feeder roots to supply the top of the plant with enough nutrients until it re-establishes. One is gambling when staring down at the surface of the soil, not knowing what lies beneath.

If the move is anticipated well enough in advance, say, a year prior to the move, the tree can be root-pruned. With a shovel, dig a circle a

couple feet out from the base of the tree, the same distance you plan to dig the following year. Cut straight down through all the roots that you encounter. Cover up the trench and leave the tree in the ground until the next year when it will finally be removed. This should allow the tree time to produce new feeder roots in the root ball space. The tree will have a greater chance of survival.

However, this method does not guarantee success. Large camellias do not have a good survival rate. A gardener with 20 years experience in the camellia gardens here told me recently that, in his experience, about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the large camellias that he assisted in moving over the years survived. He believes that spraying the trees regularly with a fine mist for several months in the new location can be very helpful. A camellia loses a lot of water through its leaves on hot days and in drying winds. Compare a severely root-pruned camellia with new cuttings inserted into a medium being misted so the top doesn't dry out. The theory behind the gardener's opinion is that a camellia needs similar treatment; spraying with a garden hose once or twice on the hottest and driest days.

Decisions can be difficult to make. A homeowner, for example, may want to move a camellia because of future construction in that area and there is no alternative but to remove or relocate the camellia tree. Prior to its removal, the homeowner might want to consider the following:

- 1) If the name of the camellia cultivar is known, check to see if it is available in the trade. Although a purchased camellia is smaller, it is a

lot less work and has a higher survival rate.

(2) The new location of a transplanted camellia should be similar to the original site, particularly the light exposure. Camellias also require a well-drained soil amended with peat moss to make it acid. The larger the camellia, the larger the hole and preparation.

3) Transplanted camellias need to be pruned back  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  their original size. A camellia can take heavy pruning but a person not used to pruning may have a difficult time making the necessary decisions to prune back hard.

4) It is best to transplant a camellia from late fall to early spring (before it puts on new growth). A camellia is considered "dormant" during its flowering season. Cool weather is the best time to move a camellia.

5) A very large camellia needs several hands to assist in removal and a wooden box or burlap to contain the soil around the rootball. A tall camellia may require a 24-30" box. The weight of such a rootball is great — requiring 3 to 4 people, a forklift or a block and tackle.

A realistic approach to moving a large camellia will help its survival rate. Sometimes it is better to say goodbye to an old friend and go out and purchase a new one. On the other hand, transplanting a large older camellia may be worth the challenge. Camellias are tough and to watch it take root and come back is like watching spring arrive. If the leaves start to wilt and drop off, the camellia is in trouble, but if new growth appears and persists, then one can be assured that factors were favorable and all the hard work was worthwhile.



Buck Mizzell holds a watermelon placemat he is auctioning to some of the seventy-four people present at the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society picnic in May at Parker Connor's Oak Island Plantation, Edisto Island, S. C.

(Photo by Shepherd)



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