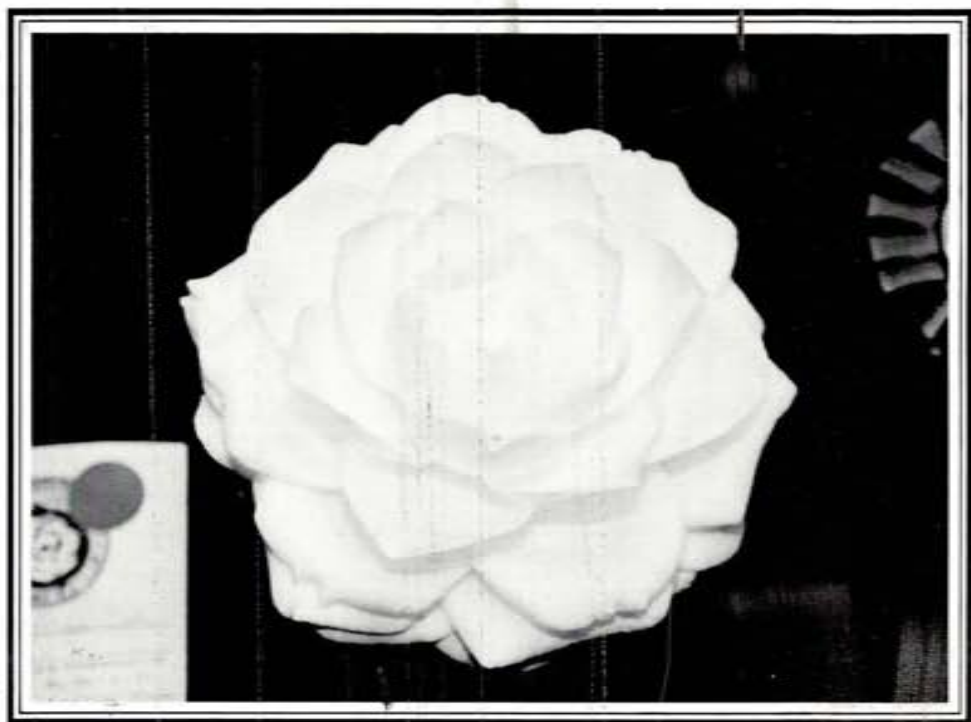


# *Atlantic Coast Camellias*

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



*Camellia Japonica* "Mary Alice Cox"

# ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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COVER GRAPHIC  
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*Cover Photo: "Mary Alice Cox" is a fine camellia japonica with a formal double bloom which has slightly cupped tips on the petals. It was introduced by T.N. Cox in Georgetown, South Carolina in 1966. This bloom was photographed by Major Doug Simon at the Atlanta Camellia Show in 1997.*

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# CAMELLIAS

By Dr. William L. Culbreth

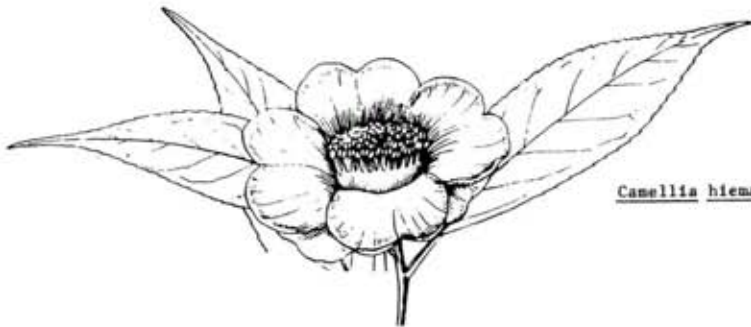
(reprinted from "Flora," the publication of the Sarah P. Duke Gardens)  
Duke University  
Durham, North Carolina

(Editor's Note: The following is the second part of this article by Dr. Culbreth, continued from the Summer, 1997, edition of the ACCS journal.)

The first Camellias arrived in America about 1800, just after the initial wave of their importation from China to Europe. They came not to the South, but to New York where, as in most of Europe, they were destined for greenhouse culture. Many green houses to produce Camellias for the cut-flower market were established in Harlem, then on the outskirts of New York City and wealthy Bostonians emulated the European aristocracy by growing the plants in elaborate private conservatories. According to H. Harold Hume's "Camellias in America" (1946), Marshall Wilder, an early president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, had 150 varieties under glass in the 1830's. Philadelphia was also soon to

become a nucleus of Camellia culture, and therein lay the Southern connection.

The Landreth Seed Company in King Street of Charleston, South Carolina, was closely affiliated with the horticultural establishment of Philadelphia. The British proprietor, David Landreth, was soon selling the first Camellias to reach the South, and the plants were an immediate success in the gardens of the Carolina Low Country. The Civil War, however, soon put an end to that commerce, and the Landreth firm disappeared. During Reconstruction times, the Fruitland Nursery of Augusta, Georgia, usurped the Camellia (and Azalea) business. Established by Julius Berckmans, a knowledgeable and enterprising Belgian horticulturist, Fruitland was for the rest of the last century and well into this one the premier supplier of quality landscape plants in



Camellia hiemalis



Camellia tenii

the South. Most of the fine old Camellias that you see in the historical gardens of Savannah, Natchez, Mobile, and New Orleans originally came from that source, thus dating from after the Civil War, not before as commonly assumed (as their owners might like for you to think.)

The most famous Camellia of all, however, is not an aristocratic ornamental but the common Tea plant of commerce. The origin of the Asiatic custom of drinking an

infusion made from the dried leaves of Camellia sinensis is lost in prehistory, but tea is unquestionably the most abundantly consumed beverage in the world. More impressed with the plant's economic importance than with its intrinsic characteristics, Linnaeus considered it to belong to a genus of its own, Thea and early natural-produce chemists called the stimulating alkaloid that it contains theine. Today botanists regard Thea as indistinct from Camellia, and



Camellia puniceiflora



chemists long ago discovered that theine and caffeine are identical compounds (although Camellia and Coffee are unrelated plants). Attempts to establish commercial plantations of Tea in Georgia and South Carolina in the late 18th and early 19th centuries failed, but Tea—a tidy evergreen shrub—is still found in many Southern gardens, its single dime-sized white flowers in early spring adding a restrained note of historical curiosity to splashy collections of Camellias.

Camellias do best in moist acidic soil and light shade—under tall pines is an ideal situation. Their root system is superficial, and planting them too

deeply is perhaps the commonest mistake. The shallow roots also mean that watering the plants well during droughts can make the difference between success and failure.

Camellias planted against buildings have extra winter protection, and this is a simple way to extend their culture somewhat farther north. If you are lucky enough to garden in the South, plant Camellias by all means, even if an occasional winter takes its toll. It sometimes seems that we live in a world of recommended substitutes for everything good, but there is no substitute for Camellias. Queen Victoria could have told us that.



Camellia weiningensis

# ATLANTIC CAMELLIA SHOW

Atlantic Botanical Gardens

Atlanta, Georgia

February 21-22, 1997

## Category - Open:

Best Atlanta Japonica	Ville de Nantes	Bonneau Dickson Atlanta, Georgia
Best Atlanta Runner-up	Destiny	Bonneau Dickson Atlanta, Georgia
Best Japonica Outside Atlanta	Betty Sheffield Sup.	R. Ehrhart Walker Creek, CA
Runner-up	Ville de Nantes	V. Budolf Charleston, S.C.
Best Miniature	Little Slam	Art Gonos Fresno, CA

## Category - Protected:

Best V. Large Japonica	Mathotiana Supreme	Fred Hahn Charlotte, N.C.
Runner-up	Guilio Nuccio Var.	John Newsome Atlanta, Georgia
Best Large Japonica	Veiled Beauty	John Newsome Atlanta, Georgia
Runner-up	Nuccio's Pink Lace	J. Smelley Moss Point, MS
Best Medium Japonica	Lady Kay	Fred Hahn Charlotte, N.C.
Runner-up	Eleanor Martin Sup.	John Newsome Atlanta, Georgia
Best Small Japonica	Little Babe	John Newsome Atlanta, Georgia
Runner-up	Buddy Var.	R. Ehrhart Walker Creek, CA
Best Miniature	Man Size	John Newsome Atlanta, Georgia
Best Reticulata Open	Emma Gaeta Var.	Art Gonos Fresno, CA
Best Reticulata Prot.	Beth Dean	J. Smelley Moss Point, MS
Runner-up	Larry Piet	Jim Pinkerton Lugoff, S.C.
Best Hybrid Protected	El Dorado	Fred Hahn Charlotte, N.C.
Runner-up	Mona Jury Var.	Fred Hahn Charlotte, N.C.
Best White Bloom	Han Ling Snow	Fred Hahn Charlotte, N.C.
Best Novice Bloom	Mathotiana	Dr. Del Mixon

# Fran's Effects Are Still Felt by Camellias

By Roger Mercer  
The Fayetteville Observer Times  
Fayetteville, North Carolina

**Dear Roger:** What happened to my camellias? ----- Larry

**Dear Larry:** Judging from the big bag you left on my desk, somebody pulled off all the leaves.

I don't know much about your plants, but I've seen many camellias with leaves like yours this winter.

In almost every case, Hurricane Fran destroyed nearby trees that protected the leaves from direct sun on freezing mornings.

The leaves are mostly shade-grown. They were produced in the spring and summer under the shade of nearby trees. Plants produce different leaves in response to sun or shade.

The leaves on your camellias weren't designed to tolerate sun. Now that the trees and their shade are gone the leaves are especially susceptible to damage when the air is frozen. That's when moisture is rapidly depleted from the leaf surfaces. And that's when the sun scorches and blisters them, as you can see.

In many cases, you don't need to do anything. The camellias will

## YOUR GARDEN



by Roger Mercer  
The Fayetteville Observer

make new leaves, adapted to more sunlight, when they begin to grow in spring.

Some camellias, however, look terrible when they get more than a couple of hours of direct sun a day. Such camellias, though they will grow with up to four hours a day of full sun, need shade for their leaves to look attractive. In such cases you have three choices:

(1) Provide instant shade by putting up trellises and planting rapid-growing vines. Or by erecting lattice to shade the plants. One idea is put lattice over a bench where you might like to sit, and place the structure on the east side of the camellia



to reduce exposure to morning sun.

(2) Plant large trees (10 feet or so tall) near the plants. This is expensive, but its the natural answer.

(3) Move the plants to a shadier location. If they are large, you will need the help of a nurseryman with heavy equipment. That can be expensive too.

\*\*\*\*\*



*This lovely setting under the majestic live oaks at Oak Island Plantation was the site for the annual spring picnic of the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society. Parker and Amy Connor hosted the event near Edisto Beach.*

*(Connor)*

# President's Message

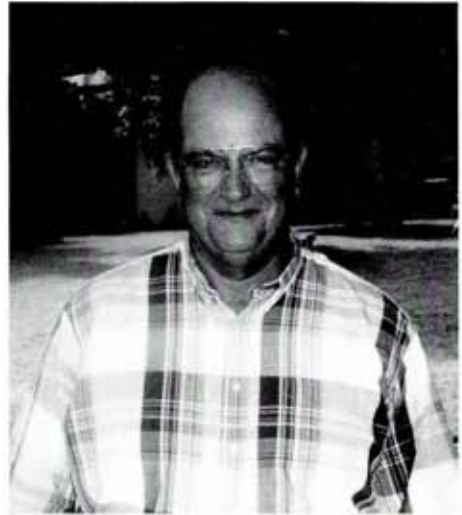
By Bill Hardwick  
Reynolds, Georgia

Dear Members,

It's time to be making plans for our Seventeenth Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on October 17th and 18th. This is later than our normal time because we want to have more time between the Gulf Coast Convention and so that we would not have to conflict with the fair shows. We will once again meet at the Sand Castle Family Resort at 1802 North Ocean Boulevard. The price is \$49.00 per night, plus tax. All reservations should be made by July 1 st, with one night's deposit in order to hold your reservation.

This year in conjunction with the convention a judges school will be held on Friday, October 17th, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:45 p.m., with lunch included. It will be at the Elk's Club at a cost of \$15.00. If you are interested contact Fred Hahn.

Friday night at 5:00 p.m. cocktails and a Low Country Boil will be served around the pool, with the members furnishing desserts. The Bloody Mary Party will be Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., with the business meeting following immediately. The Annual Dinner will be-



gin at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails being served at 7:00 p.m. Our program on Saturday evening will be presented by Rosalie Nachman. Ms. Nachman will be discussing using Camellias in your landscape.

Don't forget to bring articles you would like to have included in the auction. Please be generous since this is our major fund raiser for the year. Chances will be sold on a Camellia flag made by Clara Hahn.

Please come and bring a friend. We need new members so that our numbers will increase. As you know, we have been on the decline in the past few years. Bring a friend and enjoy a wonderful meeting.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

# ACCS MEETING

Date: Friday, October 17 - Saturday, October 18, 1997

Place: Sand Castle Family Resort  
1802 North Ocean Boulevard  
Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577  
Telephone: 1-800-626-1550

## Schedule of Events

Friday, October 17, 1997:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. | Judges School and Lunch at Myrtle Beach Elks Club  |
| 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Registration   |
| 3:00 p.m.             | Meeting of ACCS Officers and Directors at the Elk's Club   |
| 5:00 p.m.             | Open bar and Low Country Boil around the pool. Desserts furnished by members. Drinks and food furnished by ACCS. |

Saturday, October 18, 1997:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 9:30 a.m.  | Bloody Mary Party at the Myrtle Beach Elks Club hosted by Bill and Sally Hardwick.            |
| 10:30 a.m. | General Business Meeting and Auction  |
| 6:00 p.m.  | Open bar at Myrtle Beach Elks Club furnished by ACCS, followed by Annual Banquet and Program. |

The after dinner activities will include the drawing for the Camellia flag made by Clara Hahn.

Please bring this schedule with you to the meeting!!



# Camellias in September and October

By Ray Bond  
Dallas, Texas

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission of the North Carolina Nurserymen's Association from the September 1994 issue of **Nursery Notes**. While written primarily for nurserymen, it contains a number of interesting items and much good advice on Camellia culture from our friend, Ray Bond.)

**PRUNING:** September is a good time to prune; so is spring, after the plants have finished blooming. Some wholesale nurseries prune the plants haphazardly both to make them look "bushy" and so they will be easier to ship. Also, plants are pruned to obtain cuttings for rooting. These practices can leave dead stems and twigs which should be removed to the next lower node in order to prevent future disease problems.

Always prune away any dead wood on the plants you want to keep to sell in the spring. For some reason, fall pruning makes the blooms of some varieties larger. Prune to open your plants so air can get into them and breezes can blow through. This helps prevent vermin, mold, mildew, or fungus that may be look-

ing for a protected place to hide. Also, these internal limbs and shoots do very well as cuttings to root.

**FEEDING:** September is the time for that last feeding of the season. I suggest a light application of 1-2-2, or a good 1-2-3 ration fertilizer, perhaps with trace elements along with some cotton seed meal. You will want to add superphosphate (0-20-0) to help make strong blooms and roots. Superphosphate is relatively slow to break down, so now is a good time to apply it for those winter blooms.

At this time, the plants are getting ready to go dormant. Keep the nitrogen feeding low in order to discourage new growth.

Blooms need some nitrogen, but nothing like the spring high, fast acting nitrogen formulas. Nurseries will be shipping camellias to retailers for the fall market and you want to make the best impression on the retailer and his customers. The goal is to influence customers to want to buy a few more. Here are a few guidelines:

(1) Inspect your plants! Cull out the weak ones and those with no buds. Be sure the foliage looks



healthy. Save those with no buds for sale in the next blooming season when they have buds. Buds and blooms sell the plants.

(2) If cankers or lesions are apparent, reject the plant. It will be unhealthy and eventually die. Camellia die-back may be present which could spread to other camellias. When you get the plant ready to ship, prune bad or dead areas out, down to clean wood.

(3) Sometimes surgery with a sharp instrument, such as a knife or dentist's burr, is required to remove brown cankerous and/or dead wood. If this is necessary, reject the plant until such time as you can work on

it. You may want to cut the plant off below the canker and bad wood and let it grow back. If you ship a bad plant, you lose.

Bear in mind that a few of the camellias you ship from your nursery are mislabeled, i.e., the names are wrong. There is no real answer to this problem. Good wholesale nurserymen do their best to keep all the varieties straight, but margin for error is always there. The best identification is the bloom.

Display camellias in areas of filtered sun, avoiding full sun and cold winds. Keep camellias out of early morning and direct afternoon (hot) sun. Note: Plants producing red



*Bill Robertson, here ably assisted by Rupert Drews, will be an auctioneer at the Myrtle Beach meeting of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in October (Connor)*

blooms may be able to withstand more sun than plants with pink blooms, and pink blooms more than white blooms, etc.

Be sure to continue to watch for aphids. They can be very damaging at this time of year. There may be latent new growth which they will attack and destroy. Aphids will also attack and ruin camellia flower buds. Spray with insecticidal soap, diazinon, or Orthene. Watch for ants which will lead you to aphids. Eliminate these pests and you will have stronger plants and better blooms.

September and October are months for selling the early blooming camellias, particularly *Camellia sasanqua*s. Some growers treat one or two *C. japonica* buds per plant to be marketed with gibberellic acid (10,000 ppm to 20,000 ppm) in September to hasten mid-season blooming japonicas to come into bloom during this selling season. Most early blooming japonicas are already in bloom by late October or early November, treated or not. However, treating with gibberellic acid can assure early blooming. Don't treat *Camellia sasanqua*s. It will do no good and may damage the plants and/or cause bud drop.

If you cannot find a source of gibberellic acid close to you, you can order it in powder form, complete with mixing instructions, an applicator, and application instruction, from the American Camellia Society, One Massie Lane, Fort Valley, Ga. 31030. The cost (1994) is \$7.50

per gram, postpaid. One gram will treat 100 blooms, plus or minus.

Finally, if you like to plant camellia seeds, early September is the time to gather the pods. Any later, most of the seeds will have been stolen by squirrels, rats, and voles, or discharged from the pods and fallen from the plants and lost, one way or another. Camellia seed pods look like small apples. Pods can be gathered in early September and ripened on a bright shelf or window sill. They will open and discharge their seeds.

You can speed camellia seed germination by sprouting them indoors. First, soak the seeds in a container of warm water for about an hour. Then, put the seeds in a moist, not wet, mixture of perlite and peat moss (no particular ratio) in a plastic plant saucer, or similar container, and place the layer of seeds in the mixture just under the surface of this soil. I like to use a 72-cell liner in a tray. Seal it up in a clear plastic bag or place it in a moist (fog is great) location. Put the tray in a warm place, 70 degrees F. is great, with about 50%-60% light.

In several weeks you will see tap roots begin to emerge. Periodically, pick up the tray and look for tap roots as they reach the bottom of the tray. Soon after you see the tap root, the green top will begin to break from under the seed pod.

If you want to plant the seedling in a container, nip off the end of the tap root when it is about two inches long. It will rapidly form feeder



*Camellia* relative--This pretty bloom is *Stewartia Malacodendron*, a member of the *Theaceae* family along with the *Camellias*. It is growing wild in Sampson County, N.C., on the farm of Sampson Community College student Nancy Latimer. (Latimer)

roots. Or, you can let the tap roots air prune below the liner cell. If you leave the tap root on the plant in a container, it will curl and spiral in the bottom of the container, weakening the plant while looking for a way out. If it finds its way out, it will hold the plant in the ground and can be very troublesome.

If you wish to grow them in the ground, leave the tap root. I keep seedlings in containers until the root gets to the bottom and then plant outside. When you place the seedling in the ground be sure the top

of the seed is just below the surface of the soil.

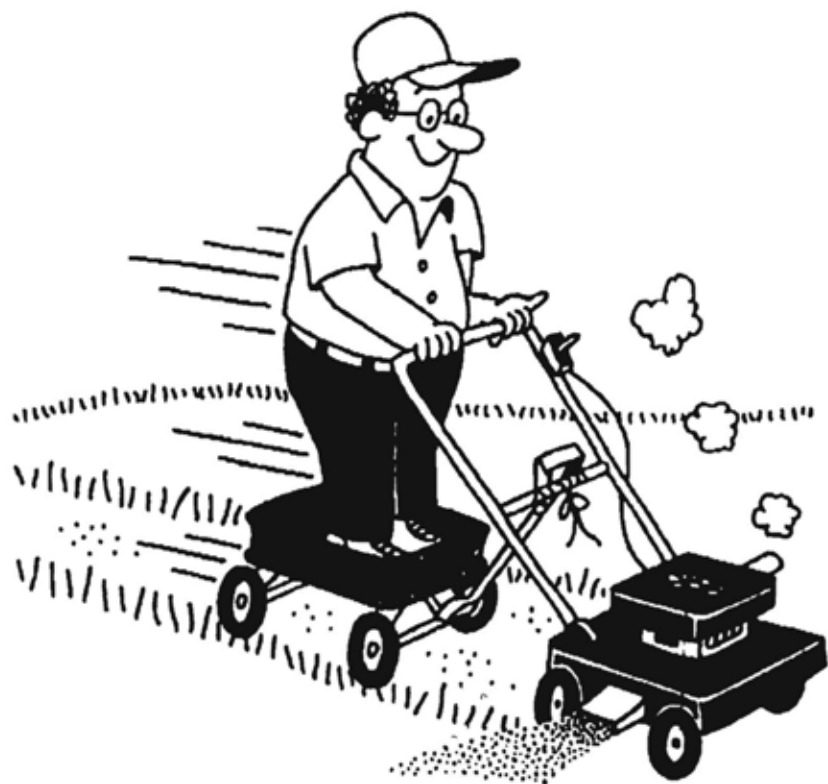
Nature can grow seeds for you, but they will be delayed by the cold winter. Sprouting them inside will give you a larger plant faster and you are more sure of getting a plant. Squirrels and other rodents love camellia seeds for winter dinner.

Why grow seedlings? They are not worth the trouble if you are looking for superior blooms. This is not to say that you will not get sellable plants and blooms. You will, one in ten. I do a lot of grafting and I use

seedlings for root stock when they don't pay out as producers of superior blooms. One problem is that the first year's blooms are rarely true. You don't really know what the bloom will ultimately look like until the second year.

(The author is a regular contributor of articles, a business con-

sultant, speaker and avid camellia grower. Brand and trade names and treatment portions are given for information and reference only. Consult your state agricultural and pesticide agencies for recommended chemicals registered by your state. Always follow instructions on the label.)



*I just love my new self-propelled pruning machine. Now I can prune my Camellias just like Joe Austin.*



# TIDEWATER CAMELLIA SHOW

Wilmington, North Carolina

February 15 -16, 1997

## Category -----Open

Best Japonica Very Large	<b>Royal Velvet Var.</b>	Parker Connor
Best Japonica Medium	<b>Lady Laura</b>	Parker Connor
Best Japonica Small	<b>Pink Perfection</b>	Lee Johnson
Best Miniature	<b>Helen B</b>	Annabelle Fetterman

## Category -----Protected

Best Japonica Large	<b>Nuccio's Pink Lace</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Japonica Medium	<b>Silver Chalice</b>	Fred & Clara Hahn
Best Japonica Small	<b>Tammia</b>	Jim Pinkerton
Best Reticulata	<b>Renegade</b>	Annabelle Fetterman
Best Hybrid	<b>Mona Jury</b>	John Penny
Best White Open	<b>Charlie Bettes</b>	Parker Connor
Best White Protected	<b>Swan Lake</b>	John Penny
Best Novice Bloom	<b>Dr. Shivago</b>	William Wilcox

Gold Certificate Open	Parker Connor
Gold Certificate Protected	Annabelle Fetterman
Silver Certificate Open	Ed & Lou Powers
Silver Certificate Protected	John & Sandra Penny

Submitted by Show Chairman - Ogle Hess

# Winter Protection of Landscape Plants

By Dr. Bruce Williams

"THE PLANT DOCTOR"

( North Carolina State Cooperative Extension Director,  
New Hanover County, North Carolina)

Some of our toughest plants sometimes need winter protection. Winter protection does not mean to keep plants warm, but to provide protection from damaging wind, heavy snow and ice, the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil beneath the plants, and heat from the sun on very cold days.

Protection can be provided to evergreen plants by reducing water loss. Plants transpire water through their leaves. Evergreens continue to lose water during the winter, therefore moisture must be taken up by the plant's roots. Homeowners are more conscious of watering shrubs during the summer months and often this garden chore is neglected during cold weather. The roots will absorb moisture when it is available but when the ground is frozen or during a dry period the moisture is not available. Plants continue to transpire water but at the expense of the water stored in plant cells. If too much water is lost, then the cell dies. The plant will not recover from the wilt, the leaf will brown, and the plant will die.



High winds and warm sun on cold days result in a higher rate of water transpiration. Protection can be offered by planting susceptible plants in a sheltered location and providing additional water during dry periods or prior to expected hard freezes.

Foundation plantings are often injured by ice and snow falling from the roof on frozen branches. Wide tape or cloth can simply be wrapped around an evergreen to prevent broken branches. This is helpful for boxwoods and arborvitae. If branches are bent and broken over by heavy ice or snow, it is advisable to wait a few days before pruning and cleaning up. Often branches will recover on their own, so don't be hasty to prune drooping limbs.

A layer of mulch is usually recommended during winter months after the first freeze. Mulches will reduce water loss from the soil, thus aiding in transpiration, and also reduce 'heaving' of the soil as the soil freezes and thaws.

To protect plants from cold damage, the following six steps are suggested:

1. Plant only varieties that are hardy to your area.
2. If you have a choice, locate less hardy plants in the highest part of the yard. Cold air settles to the lowest part of the yard.
3. Protect plants from cold wind. A fence or tall evergreen hedge of trees or shrubs gives good protection.
4. Shade plants from direct winter sun, especially early morning sun. Plants that freeze slowly and thaw slowly will be damaged least. The south side of the house with no shade is the worst place for tender plants.
5. Stop feeding plants quickly-available nitrogen in late summer. Let them "harden off" before cold weather arrives.
6. A covering of plastic is excellent

\*\*\*\*\*



*One more look at the ancient Camellia Japonica, planted about 1830, at Parker Connor's Oak Island Plantation at Edisto. The plant, one of the first used out-of-doors in America, can be seen dwarfing the two vans in this picture. (Darden)*

protection. Build a frame over the plant, cover with plastic and seal plastic to the ground with soil. Shade plastic to keep temperature from building up inside. This plastic traps moisture and warm air as it radiates from the soil. It also knocks off cold wind. Be certain not to allow plastic to come in contact with plants.

Knowing how and when to offer first aid to an ice, snow, or wind damaged plant will often save the

plant from future decay and possible loss. Do not be in a hurry to start pruning a branch which is bent out of shape. Often in a few days following the damage the plant will straighten up on its own. Broken limbs can be pruned immediately. Make clean cuts with sharp tools. If the plant is completely misshapened after the corrective pruning, consider pruning the entire plant where the subsequent growth will be in balance.

Trees can be straightened by



*The flower on the ancient Oak Island camellia is a simple red five-petal Camellia japonica bloom. The plant still blooms in profusion.*

*(Darden)*



cabling or guying. Straighten them by attaching a cable or guy about 3/4 of the way up, pulling them back into position. Be certain to pad the tree to protect against wire damage. Trees which are uprooted should be immediately straightened and staked. Remove any damaged roots or limbs by pruning. Keep the tree mulched and watered during stress periods.

Dr. Bruce Williams is the County Extension and Arboretum Director in New Hanover County,

North Carolina. Send your gardening questions or comments to the Plant Doctor, 6206 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, N.C. 28403-3822, or e-mail to [cbwillia@newhanov.ces.ncsu.edu](mailto:cbwillia@newhanov.ces.ncsu.edu). Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if requesting a reply. For additional information on cold protection, contact your county extension agent, or watch Bruce on "The Down East Gardener" on Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m. on WECT-TV in Wilmington, N.C.



**I have planned, plotted, and calculated, and I still can't beat Jim Pinkerton.**

# 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:

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society  
4437 McKee Road  
Charlotte, N. C. 28270

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

*Check here if you want a membership card.*

## Editor's Column

by Jim Darden  
Clinton, North Carolina

Just when we thought Bertha and Fran were history, along came a reminder that they were still with us. After 38 tall pines fell during the storm I thought we could calculate the damage in lost plants and move forward, then came a wind storm in May and another six trees came crashing down. Again, we thought that might be the end of the hurricane.

Then came the thunderstorm in July. We knew that several trees in the nursery were leaning. But they appeared strong enough (or braced up against other trees enough) to stay in place until we sold the plants out from under them next spring. They all remained in place during the July storm. It was the other six that crashed down into the azaleas that hurt. And, actually the pine that smashed through the roof of the office and the one that crushed the last 50' of the greenhouse hurt more.

It just seems that the lasting effects of the hurricane will not go away. We still have cleanup of debris and stump removal ahead of us. The late Dr. J.C. Raulston, before his untimely death in an auto accident last spring, told my son's horticulture class at N. C. State



University that the effects of the storm would be felt for 3-5 years. How right he was.

Even with all the turmoil we have our first crop of Camellias in the field, and with one more year of growth we should have some fine specimens ready in another year. How exciting!!! With lots of help from Camellia friends like John Penny, Carl Allen, and many others who offered cuttings, the upcoming crops will be very pretty. I can't wait.

Be sure to read the info on the October 17-18 meeting in Myrtle Beach in this issue from President Bill Hardwick. It should be a great meeting. I hope to see everyone there.

# Fertilizing Camellias

By Ogle Hess  
Wilmington, N. C

I fertilize by plants about three times a year. In March I fertilize before the new growth begins. I fertilize again in June. The first two times I use a fertilizer with all the trace elements (usually 15-5-10) and slow release nitrogen.

Depending on the size of the plant (less for small plants), I throw a handful or so around the plant, but not near the trunk. I used to rake all the mulch back when I fertilized, but no more. I just throw it on the mulch.

I do water immediately after fertilizing. Never leave fertilizer on a dry plant.

In September I lightly fertilize again, but this time with a fertilizer which has no Nitrogen (0-10-10). This helps to avoid new growth which may not be hardy enough to survive cold weather

With our sandy soil, I may use more fertilizer if we have several days of heavy rain. This tends to leach the fertilizer out of the soil.

For pots I normally use Osmocote or a liquid fertilizer. Osmocote is a slow release fertilizer that reacts to temperature and water. It lasts four to six months and can be used on field plants, but it is more expensive.



Do not overfeed Camellias, and do not feed a dry plant.

There are so many beautiful camellia plants that it is hard to decide which plants to buy. A large number of varieties are not available in local nurseries. Many can be bought from national nurseries which specialize in camellias, such as Nuccio's Nursery in California. We would recommend the following for initial planting. Most of these can be found in local nurseries.

## **Mildred and My Favorites:**

**Debutante** - light pink, full peony form



**Alba Plena**--medium white, formal double.

**Mathotiana**--crimson red, rose form double.

**Donckelari**--red marbled white, semi-double.

**Nuccio's Gem**--medium white, formal double.

**Drama Girl**--very large deep salmon rose pink.

**Pink Perfection**--small shell pink, formal double.

**Royal Velvet**--large velvet red, semi-double.

**Tomorrow Park Hill**--soft light pink, darker edges.

**Eugene Bolen**--solid red, large bloom.

Camellia stalwarts in  
Wilmington, N. C. Mike  
Matiace, Tidewater  
Camellia Club President  
and Ogle Hess, show  
chairman, enjoy a win-  
ning bloom at their fine  
show, 1997.



# THE AIKEN GARDEN CLUB COUNCIL

submitted by Marie Dahlen  
Aiken, South Carolina

A number of years ago three Aiken women got together for lunch to discuss growing camellias. From that meeting the idea was born to establish a garden of camellias originated in Aiken and registered with the American Camellia Society.

It was decided to plant the camellias on the grounds of the Doll House, the garden center maintained by the Aiken Garden Club Council in Hopeland Gardens. Retired landscape architect John W. Weems, Jr., of Aiken was chosen to design the plan for the camellia garden.

Standards of the national camellia society are understandably high, but at least fifteen camellias developed in Aiken through the years have been registered. All except one of these camellias have been located and are now planted in the Aiken Garden Club Council's historic garden, or will be planted in the fall of 1996.

One of the earliest registered camellias originated in Aiken was Linda Laughlin, developed in 1958 by Mrs. William K. Laughlin, a prominent winter resident. This plant, which has a large, beautiful pale, pale pink bloom, was a sport from Mrs.

Laughlin's Lady Clare.

The scion used to graft the Council's plant came from the greenhouse of the late Mrs. Albert Bissell, another prominent winter colonist who was a member of the Garden Club of Aiken and a friend of Mrs. Laughlin. Mrs. Laughlin was the aunt of former Senator Michael Laughlin of Aiken, and Linda was her daughter.

My Sue, originated in 1962 by Frank S. Watters, a former Aiken resident who now lives in Charleston, is light blush with incurved petals. Mr. Watters names this camellia for his daughter whose birth he was awaiting when he brought a handful of camellia seeds at Fruitland Nurseries in Augusta. This lovely bloom was the one worth developing from among the many seeds he had planted. A scion was taken from My Sue found in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. French on Englewood Road in Houndslake, Aiken. The Frenches, who are native of England bought the Watters home when the family moved away.

In 1966 Mrs. Laughlin registered another camellia, this time honoring her granddaughter Melinda Hackett. Melinda Hackett

has a medium-to-large pink bloom ranging from anemone to full peony form. This pretty camellia has not yet been planted in the council garden, but it has been grafted and grown by Elizabeth R. Scott, "Lib," of the Cereus Garden Club. It is scheduled for transfer in the fall of 1996.

Elizabeth Weems, a large beautiful rose-pink semi-double camellia, was registered by Clarence A. Owens in 1967. Mr. Owens, a Clemson University extension agent (later Aiken's Buick Dealer), originated this plant in honor of his stepdaughter, Elizabeth Corliss Weems,

better known to her family and friends as "Libbo". Mr. Owens was a member of the City Park Commission and largely responsible for the planting of dogwoods in the city's parkways.

Mrs. Laughlin originated another camellia and registered it in 1971, naming it Dallas Pratt in honor of her brother. The blossom is a beautiful large pink flower, anemone form. The Dallas Pratt was found in the Colleton Avenue garden of Richard D. Sears, III, who had purchased the Laughlin home. A scion was taken and grafted by Mrs. Scott, and this camellia, too, is



Four people instrumental in the establishment of the Aiken Garden are (L to R) Sally Anaclerio, Council President, John Weems, designer, Lib Scott, Grower of the plants, and Ernestine Law, researcher.



scheduled for planting in the Council's garden in the fall. Dr. Pratt, a psychiatrist, was co-founder of the American Museum in Britain and was an animal advocate. He died in 1994 at the age of 79.

Miss Aiken, a lovely light pink large semi-double camellia, was originated in 1975 by George M. Owens, who owned and operated a nursery in Aiken for more than twenty years. Since Mr. Owens was the father of five daughters, he often said he thought he would play it safe by naming his original camellia simply Miss Aiken. Mrs. John W. Wells, Sr., furnished the scion, which Mrs. Scott grafted and grew for the Council of Gardens.

The first of four camellias originated by Mrs. Scott in honor of her family was H. C. Scott, registered in 1986. This camellia, named for her husband, is a formal double bloom, which is a beautiful deep pink with a darker stripe. Mrs. Scott, who is a certified American Camellias Society judge and a National Flower Show Master Judge, is largely responsible for the establishment of the Aiken Garden Club Council's Camellia Garden. A native of Anderson, she met and married Mr. Scott, better known as "Dick", after coming to Aiken as a registered nurse at the old Aiken County Hospital. Many years ago she was taught how to graft camel-

lias by the late Claus Busch, the Scott's mail carrier who had a beautiful garden at his home on South Boundary.

The following year, 1987, Mrs. Scott registered the Pete Scott in honor of her son. It has large bright red semi-double blossoms, is a prolific bloomer and is a good landscaping shrub.

Reda Scott, also registered by Mrs. Scott the same year, is named for her daughter. It has a beautiful white medium-sized formal double bloom.

Jeffrey Webster was developed by Mrs. Scott in honor of her son-in-law, Reda's husband, and was registered in 1989. The unusual bloom, which is white with scattered red flecks and stripes, ranges from semi-double to loose peony form.

Ella Weeks was also registered by Mrs. Scott in 1989. This camellia has a beautiful semi-double bloom with deeper pink margins on the petals. Mrs. Scott originated this camellia in honor of her close friend, the late Ella Weeks, wife of Aiken's long-time mayor, the late H. Odell Weeks. Mrs. Weeks was an avid flower lover, who was a member of the Gardenmakers Garden Club. She lived to see her namesake camellia in bloom.

Martha Smith, named for a past president of the National Council of Garden Clubs, from West Virginia,





*Mr. John Weems, the designer of the Aiken Camellia Garden, is shown with his son and Mrs. Weems.*

was originated by Mrs. Scott and registered in 1990. It has a small double bloom that is light pink with a deeper pink on the outer petals.

Two camellias originated by Mrs. Scott were registered by the American Camellia Society in 1995. They were named Be-Be Woodward and Cereus Gardeners. Mrs. Woodward, a special friend of Mrs. Scott and a member of Country Gardeners, died shortly after serving a term as Aiken Garden Club Council President.

The beautiful Be-Be Woodward is a pure white with yellow at the

base of each petal. The bloom is a medium-to-large semi-double to peony form to formal double.

Cereus Gardeners, named in honor of Mrs. Scott's garden club, is a pale pink, shading to a deeper pink at the outer edges. It has a formal double bloom without defined outer petals, thus giving it an unusual cup form.

According to records researched, the earliest camellia listed as being originated in Aiken was developed and grown by the late Dr. Robert H. Wilds. Named Elizabeth Wilds in honor of his wife, one of

the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Sheffield Phelps, this plant was registered more than fifty years ago, in 1940. Mrs. Phelps, a winter resident of Aiken, whose beautiful home and gardens have been restored in recent years, was the leading force in establishing the Garden Club of South Carolina, holding the initial meeting at her home, "Rose Hill".

Five years earlier, in 1925, Mrs. Phelps had organized the Garden Club of Aiken. A camellia named in honor of her other daughter, Claudia, was developed by Fruitland Nurseries and registered with the American Camellia Society in 1948. Claudia Phelps, a sport of Duchess of Sutherland, is a large delicate pink, shading to white at the edge of the petals.

The Wilds camellia has not yet

been located, but presumably it was planted at the home of the late Dr. and Mrs. Wilds on Hayne Avenue, and perhaps, also at Rose Hill. When this plant is found and properly identified, it will be tagged and next winter a scion will be taken and grafted onto new stock. In several years, then, this camellia will be added to the collection in the Council garden. The Eleanor Wilds has a light pink medium-sized double bloom with margins of paler pink.

As other camellias are registered from Aiken growers, it is hoped that they, too, may be added to the Aiken Garden Club Council Garden. New camellias cannot be developed by a quick and easy method. It takes an average of ten years before a satisfactory bloom grown from seed can be submitted for registering.



*This plaque tells visitors to the Aiken Camellia Garden about the origin of the cultivars growing therein.*

# ATLANTIC COAST SHOW DATES

October 3-4:	Mid-Carolina Camellia Society South Carolina State Fair Columbia, South Carolina
October 11-12:	Middle Georgia Camellia Society Georgia National Fair--Agricenter Perry, Georgia
November 8-9:	Middle Georgia Camellia Society Massee Lane Gardens Fort Valley, Georgia
November 15-16:	Valdosta Camellia Society Valdosta Garden Center Valdosta, Georgia
November 19-20:	Federated Garden Clubs of Waycross Suntrust Bank of Southeast Georgia Waycross, Georgia
December 6:	Men's Garden Club of Albany Albany Mall Albany, Georgia
December 6-7:	Island of Beaches Camellia Society Jacksonville Beach, Florida
January 10-11:	Gainesville Camellia Society Oaks Mall Gainesville, Florida
January 17-18:	Aiken Camellia Club Aiken Mall Aiken, South Carolina
February 7-8:	Charlotte Camellia Society Carolina Place Mall Pineville, North Carolina
February 14-15:	Mid-Carolina Camellia Society Columbia Mall Columbia, South Carolina
February 28:	Middle Georgia Camellia Society Houston Mall Warner Robins, Georgia



ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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