

Atlantic Coast Camellias

JOURNAL OF THE ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Camellia 'White by the Gate'

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ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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COVER PHOTO
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Camellia japonica 'White By The Gate' has a medium, white, formal double flower that grows on a vigorous, upright plant. It blooms in mid-season. 'White By The Gate' was introduced in 1955 by Hyman's Nursery in Lafayette, Louisiana. This photo was provided by McCorkle Nurseries in Dearing, Georgia.

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Propagating Historic Camellias at Middleton Place: A Gift for the Future

By E. S. "Tripp" Compton
Charleston, South Carolina

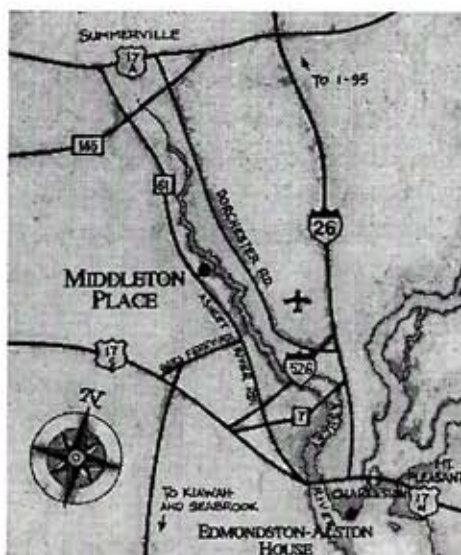
The Gardens at Middleton Place are an American treasure and throughout the years have received both national and international recognition. The Garden Club of America has recognized Middleton Place as "the most interesting and important garden in America." However, the Gardens, along with their historic camellia collection are endangered. If these gardens are to survive for future generations, we need your help.

Middleton Place has a long and significant history. As an 18th century rice plantation on the historic Ashley River Corridor, this site was the home of Henry Middleton (1717-1784), second president of the First Continental Congress; Arthur Middleton (-1787), signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor Henry Middleton (1770-1846), Minister to Russia; and Williams Middleton (1809-1883), signer of the Ordinance of Secession. History unfolds as visitors walk through the 65 acres of America's oldest landscaped gardens.

Created upon the same principles

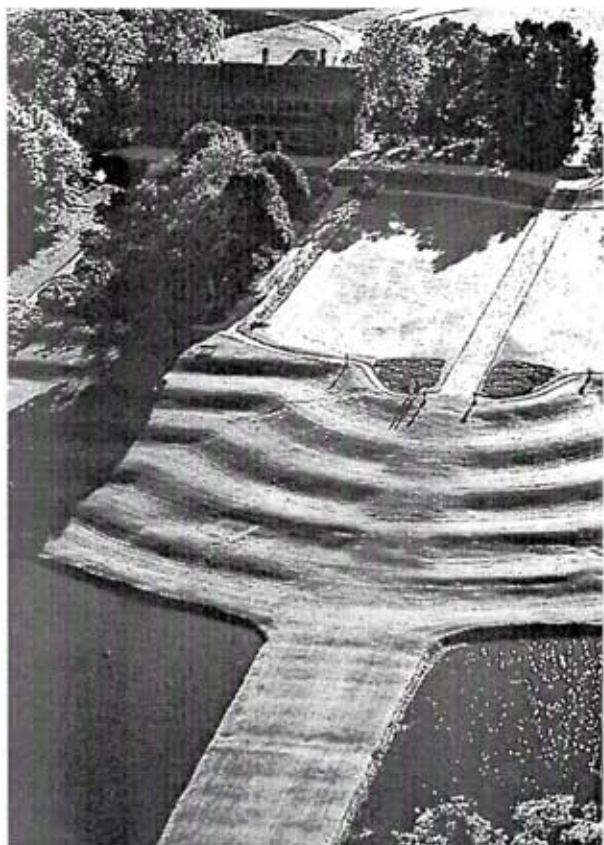
as the gardens of Versailles, the historic link between America and Europe comes to light around each bend in the path. The oldest camellia in America, the "Reine des Fleurs," is said to be growing in the gardens at Middleton Place. The renowned French botanist, Andre Michaux, planted four camellias in the gardens in 1786. Due to a variety of reasons, including natural disasters, only one of the original four camellias remains.

The Middleton Place Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, owns



The Middleton Place House, built in 1755 as a guest wing of the plantation house, is all that remained after Union troops put Middleton to the torch near the end of the Civil War.

(Middleton)



and operates the 110-acre Middleton Place National Historic Landmark. Linda Parker is the Foundation's Director of Development and Planning, and Sydney Frazier is the Director of Horticulture for the National Historic Landmark. Linda and Sydney, along with other staff members, are creating a plan to preserve the authenticity of the Gardens. This plan is called The Botanical Legacy Project and will initially focus on identifying and propagating the Garden's large collection of historic

camellias.

Hoping to connect with other people interested in camellias, Linda recently logged onto the Internet. Searching through a wealth of information, she found the homepage of the International Camellia Society. She was quickly in touch with a camellia expert in Japan. Although this contact was helpful, Linda wanted to find assistance closer to Middleton Place. A few clicks of the mouse gave her my name, not only as a camellia enthusiast, but also as a

local. A few e-mails and phone calls later, I agreed to visit Middleton Place and listen to Linda and Sydney discuss The Botanical Legacy Project. When we met, I explained that, as a board member of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, I could put them in touch with people who might be able to assist them.

One of the major obstacles in propagating the camellias is that no identification tags exist. So, how does one identify over 3000 camellias? I agreed to discuss this problem at the spring board meeting of The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society and hopefully rally support. One of the outcomes of my involvement is this article requesting help.

Since that meeting, I have talked with experts at the annual picnic at Parker Connor's and also with many of you. Rupert "Rupie" Drews has agreed to attempt air layering the Michaux camellia. He also is assisting with the propagation of thousands of seeds that, as this goes to press, are ripe on the plants.

Beginning in September, I plan to visit Middleton Place at 10-day intervals to take digital color photographs of each camellia while in bloom. I hope that you, the camellia identification experts, will assist in identifying these plants. If two or three experts can walk with me during these visits, perhaps we can identify each camellia.

The Foundation plans to enter these color pictures on the Internet. It will be one of the most impressive collections of camellia blooms in the world. To think that we could correctly identify the entire collection of camellias would be practically impossible. But, with the help of camellia experts from around the world, the identification of most of the plants should be fairly well established.

For those of you who are willing to travel to Charleston to help, complimentary rooms are available at the award-winning Middleton Inn. If you are willing to assist, or if you have some helpful ideas, please con-

Middleton Place still offers a sense of the antebellum with a blacksmith, potter, and weaver, along with animal displays and carriage rides, reminiscent of the plantation era. (Middleton)



tact me. Your friends at the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society will be helping all year, but we need your expertise as well. Although Middleton Place is beautiful throughout the year, the months of this identification project, September

through April, are spectacular and promise a rewarding experience for camellia enthusiasts. I urge you to join with us and help save this American treasure for the 21st century and beyond.



Lu Powers talks with camellia "brass," including her husband Ed, our new American Camellia Society President, and Ann Walton, New Executive Director of ACS.

(Greg Davis)

Camellia Forest Nursery

by Kai Mei Parks
and David Parks
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

(The following excerpts are from the catalog of Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, NC. The Proprietors of this nursery, Kai Mei and David Parks (wife and son of Dr. Clifford Parks), specialize in Camellias, and participate in the camellia research of Dr. Parks.

General Information

This year has seen much growth at Camellia Forest Nursery. We have moved more plants to the Carrie Road location where the majority of our nursery plants will be grown. Helping us with all the activity is Gregor Meil, an intern from Germany who has contributed many ideas. We built two greenhouses, one already dubbed the Camellia House.

Between the building and moving we have tried to introduce a few new plants for varied interests. *Prunus mume* 'Bridal Veil' (Flowering Apricot) really excites me because of the large fragrant blooms on a pendulous plant. 'Bridal Veil' will probably stay under ten feet with branches that generally curve down. Another plant that has impressed us is *Incarvillea arguta*. We planted it in a poor, dry site and it has been in bloom con-

tinuously since June, despite our summer drought. A new Camellia relative, *Schima argentea*, is an evergreen with fragrant flowers which seems quite easy to grow. Test plots of plants from Yunnan, China, are showing some promise, although some haven't quite adjusted to our seasons. For those of you who have grown some of the Yunnan plants, we would like to hear about their performance.

Through the late Dr. J. C. Raulston's generosity we have a few of his introductions this year (more in the future) including: *Camellia* X 'Carolina Moonmist', *Photinia*



Camellia japonica

'April Kiss'

villosa 'Village Shade', and *Viburnum awabuki* 'Chindo'.

At Carrie Road we have finally started planting a display garden, which I hope will be useful as a resource for visitors as well as a source of cutting wood. A mixture of new, old and unusual cultivars and species are being planted.

Camellia Introduction

The Camellia breeding program was initiated in 1962 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. This summer my father is visiting Australia to make a large number of Camellia crosses between many different species. The mild climate in Australia allows crosses to be made among many interesting species, including yellow flowered ones.

The progeny will certainly generate some worthwhile plants which we hope to introduce in the future. We are working on introducing some new cultivars, but wanted to have larger plants in greater numbers before introducing them. Just to tantalize you, we have a zone 6B Camellia japonica with light pink blooms, still without a name. Like many plants, it takes a long time to propagate and build up stock of camellias so that they can be sold.

In recent years much has been written about camellia hardiness, and we have received many inquiries

from gardeners in colder areas in the eastern United States and Europe. In our experience, the hardiest camellia selections of *Camellia japonica*, *C. oleifera* and *C. sinensis* can be grown with winter wind and sun protection in zone 6B (minimum to -5 degrees F) with reasonable success. Gardeners with experience may have success with the same hardy strains in zone 6A (minimum to -10 degrees F)

茶
花
林



CAMELLIA
FOREST
NURSERY



Camellia japonica

'April Blush'



Camellia japonica

'April Dawn'

with excellent winter sun and wind protection and winter mulches. But, careful site selection (and luck) are essential. Some camellias may turn out to be hardy in zones colder than 6A, but we do not generally recommend camellias for areas colder than zone 6B.

We are offering some recently acquired cultivars which we think are worth trying in the garden. The pink flowered tea (*Camellia sinensis* 'Rosea') is one plant we obtained in small numbers and it has very interesting qualities, especially the bronze-red foliage. 'Cheerio,' 'Magnoliaeflora,' 'Donation,' 'Sawada's Dream,' and 'R. L. Wheeler Var.' all showed reasonable flowerbud hardiness in Wendel Levi's tests, so they are good ones to try if you are looking for showy flowers and moderate cold hardiness.

For milder areas we offer 'Black Lace' and 'Tiny Princes' for interesting floral characteristics. This year we have some nice two-year old plants of the April series. Many of the plants are budded and will adjust to their new home easily. For the nursery trade we are offering liners of a few cultivars to help support the Camellia breeding program. Please write for more information.

Fall Blooming Camellias

Because of the rarity of flowers on



Camellia japonica

'April Remembered'

woody plants in the autumn, the fall blooming camellias have a special place in our gardens. There are many species of camellias that flower in the autumn, but *Camellia sasanqua* makes the best garden display and is by far the best known among the fall-blooming species. In recent years *C. sasanqua* has been hybridized with *C. oleifera* to introduce hardiness and with *C. reticulata* to develop more showy blooms. Consequently, the variety of camellias available for the fall and early winter has been greatly expanded in recent years.

Camellia oleifera blooms in the fall with small flowers on a vigorous and very cold hardy plant. After

several cold winters in Washington, D. C., *C. oleifera* was the only plant remaining in the Camellia collection. We have several cultivars which inherited the cold hardiness of the parent, and we also have some of Dr. Ackerman's introductions. The hardiness of these hybrids is zone 6B, but with good wind and sun protection in the winter, they can be grown in zone 6A.

The April Series

These are very cold-hardy spring-blooming *C. japonica* cultivars, recommended for zone 6B. This is the coldest area where camellias can be

dependably grown. The following hardy selections have been selected from thousands of hybrid seedlings. The new selections have been named the "April Series" for the time we expect them to bloom in cooler northern areas. Seven selections are listed below.

'April Blush' – ('Berenice Boddy' x 'Dr. Tinsley'), shell pink, semi-double flowers.

'April Dawn' – ('Berenice Boddy' x 'Herme'), shell pink and white variegated, formal flowers.

'April Kiss' – ('Berenice Boddy' x 'Reg Ragland'), small, medium red, formal flowers.

'April Remembered' – ('Berenice Boddy' x 'Dr. Tinsley'), cream to pink, semi-double flowers.

'April Rose' – ('Berenice Boddy' x 'Kumasaka'), rose red formal flowers.

'April Snow' – ('Triphosa' x 'Betty Sheffield Supreme'), white, rose-form double flowers.

'April Tryst' – (Seedling of 'Yours Truly'), bright red, anemone-form flowers.

(editor's note: There is much more in this beautiful, unique, and color-

ful camellia catalog. You can contact the Camellia Forest Nursery at: <http://home.aol.com/camforest>

e-mail to: camforest@aol.com

Phone: (919) 967-5529

or snail-mail to :

Camellia Forest Nursery
125 Carolina Forest Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Visit the website listed above to see some gorgeous color pictures of these new introductions.)

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.*

President's Message

By Jeanette Waltzby
Hadensville, Virginia

It seems sometimes we in the camellia world talk constantly about the weather, but this summer has been a real dry scorcher. In Central Virginia we have had no measurable rain with temperatures extremely high. A little farther south it seems there has been some rain but the heat is, well, it's hot!!! The only effect that I'm hearing, though, is possibly smaller blooms, but with some cooler weather and rain that could change easily. I certainly hope that you all have enough water for your precious plants. Even though the water from "the sky" seems to have more magic in it, any water is better than none.

I met some fellas in Santee that are very enthusiastic about their show in Savannah this coming season and they plan to be at Myrtle Beach for the first time, so let's welcome them and hear what they have to say. It's hard to believe we're talking show time again but here it comes! The first one I know of is the week after our Convention.

Speaking of our convention I certainly hope you have sent in your reservations and are packing you bags. Please don't forget to invite another camellia friend along, we need to in-



crease our membership and there is no better way than to have them meet our great group personally. It is a proven fact that everyone that comes to Myrtle Beach is excited about ACCS and wants to be a part of this special group.

Our Banquet Program will be presented by our own Editor Jim Darden, who is extremely knowledgeable about many things but especially, Camellias, Azaleas, and Rhododendrons. Ann Walton, our new ACS Director, is also planning to attend and those of us that have not met her will be able to do so.

The raffle items this year will include a camellia flag and a painting

from a different artist. Olge Hess has generously agreed to donate one of his paintings and Ed Powers has told me he is having a hard time picking

out just which one to select, they are all so exceptional.

See you in Myrtle Beach,- Be there!!!!

Jeannette



Fred Hahn, Dr. Herb Racoff and Tom Lee share drinks and Camellia gab at a recent Camellia meeting.

(Greg Davis)

Myrtle Beach – 1999

By Jeanette Waltz, President
Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
Hadensville, Virginia

Summer is hot upon us, so this means time to start making your plans to attend our popular and fun fall event – the **Annual Convention of the A.C.C.S.** – in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The date has been moved back to our original date of the first weekend in October. Put it on your calendar now – **October 1-2, 1999**. We will again be staying at the Sand Castle Family Resort, located at 1802 North Ocean Boulevard. The telephone number is 1(800) 626-1550.

The prices are the same as before, \$57.00 per night plus tax for an ocean view room, or \$62.00 per night plus tax for an ocean front room. All reservations should be made no later than August 15, 1999. You will need a one night deposit in order to hold your reservation.

The registration fee for the convention is \$35.00. Also, your ACCS membership dues are needed. This is still \$12.50.

Friday night at 5:00 p.m. there will be cocktails and a Bar-B-Que buffet will be served around the pool. Members will furnish the desserts. The Bloody Mary Party will be

Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., with the business meeting following immediately. This will also be an opportunity to meet the new ACS Executive Director, Ms. Ann Walton.

The annual banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails, and dinner following at 7:00 p.m. Our program on Saturday evening will be our multi-talented Editor, Professor, Nurseryman, Jim Darden.

Don't forget to bring your articles to be auctioned off. Please be generous since this is our major fund raiser of the year. We will also have some exciting "got to have" items to be offered to you with your purchase of "opportunity tickets."

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in October in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. See you there.

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

Annual Meeting

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

October, 1-2, 1999

PLACE: Sand Castle Family Resort
1802 North Ocean Boulevard
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: 1-800-626-1550

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 1, 1999

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 2:00 - 5:00 P.M. | Registration |
| 3:00 P.M. | Meeting of ACCS Officers and Directors at the Elks Club |
| 5:00 P.M. | Open bar and Bar-B-Que buffet around the pool. Desserts furnished by members. Drinks and food furnished by ACCS. |

Saturday, October 2, 1999

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:30 A.M. | Bloody Mary Party at Myrtle Beach Elks Club. Hosted by Jeannette and Richard Waltz. |
| 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 the Annual Banquet and Program. |

After dinner activities will include the drawings from the "opportunity tickets"

PLEASE BRING THIS SCHEDULE WITH YOU

Doctor Cares For Community In Retirement

Submitted by Paul Dahlen
from The Augusta Chronicle
July 10, 1999

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – Dr. Daniel Nathan has lived his life with one simple goal in mind: to leave this world a better place than he found it.

While serving 42 years as a family doctor, Dr. Nathan did whatever it took to serve his patients. When he wasn't delivering one of 4000 babies in Ft. Valley, he was traveling to patient's homes to tend to their medical needs or to lend an ear to hear about their aches and pains.

"A doctor can diagnose an illness just by listening to the patient," Dr. Nathan said. "That's the secret to being a good physician. Unfortunately, that's not often done today. But that's the only way I knew to do it. If a patient needed anything from me, I was going to make sure he got it.

The Tifton native arrived in town in 1946 with his wife, Muriel, who was returning to her hometown. The doctor was fresh out of the military after traveling the world as a flight surgeon during World War II.

Not only has he doctored the sick,

but he helped found Peach County Hospital, now Peach Regional Medical Center, and Fort Valley Medical Nursing Home, now Fort Valley Nursing Center.

Those who know and admire the 83-year-old retired family doctor say he has contributed more than his share as a dedicated physician and community leader.

"He's always been very well respected and appreciated in town," said Fort Valley Mayor John Stumbo. "Dr. Nathan is one of the most beloved people for all of the time and effort that he's given to the people of this community."

Dr. Nathan describes Fort Valley Councilman Norman Fitzgerald as "one of my babies." The doctor delivered the 47-year-old councilman in 1952 and has tended to four generations of the Fitzgerald family.

"I've literally known him all my life," said Mr. Fitzgerald. "Always let him take care of me and my family because I trusted him. He would come to our home if we were ill, and he would always listen. That made

him very special.

While Dr. Nathan's contributions to the medical field are many, so are his contributions to the community. The doctor and his family recently donated \$26,000 to the city for a downtown tower clock.

But his community commitment didn't start with the chiming clock next to the new bandstand, according to the mayor. "He and Mrs. Nathan have always expressed interest in the community and a commitment to it," Mr. Stumbo said. "The Nathans' only comment was that this town had given so much to them over

the years, (donating the clock) was a good way to express their appreciation for their lifetime here. It was a wonderful gesture.

Muriel Nathan has her own special stories about her husband of 57 years. From their first date in 1938, when he told her they would eventually marry, to today, when they are as much in love as ever, Dr. Nathan remains her soulmate.

"He's the kindest and most considerate person I've ever known," she said. "I don't know what I did to deserve him, but I got him."



Dr. Dan Nathan (left) and W. C. Wyatt study a camellia before placing their bid at a Myrtle Beach camellia auction.

(Shepherd)

Editor's Column

By Jim Darden
Clinton, North Carolina

Well, it's time for our Myrtle Beach meeting once again. This is the highlight of the year for the ACCS, and always a fun meeting filled with camellia camaraderie, good food, auctions, and much more.

This year's meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 1-2. The location is the same as last year-lodging at the Sand Castle Resort and meetings at the Elk's Club. Everyone should try to come, for the fun and to be rejuvenated in camellias.

Somehow in a weak moment I agreed to be the Saturday evening speaker. What was I thinking about? We are supposed to have a camellia authority, like Julius Nuccio, Jerry Hoggsette, Marion Edwards, Hulyn Smith or Annabelle Fetterman. Why me I ask?

Well, I hope to bring some camellia information and color to the meeting. I will be talking about my trip with Bruce Williams and the New Hanover County Arboretum Master Gardeners group last year to England. Yes, there were camellias in bloom in May at Kew Gardens, and at Trellisick, and on the Isles of Scilly in the gardens at Tresco. So,



I will be sharing with you the beauty of these gardens, camellias and much more, on October 2nd.

I have mentioned to some of you that I was asked to head up a similar tour of English gardens next year. Originally we had planned to do that in the fall, possibly this October. But, it was decided that the gardens would be much finer in May (and there would be camellias in bloom then, as well), so we rescheduled the trip for May of 2000. I will be telling you about the trip and will distribute brochures.

There is an added bonus that I hope my ACCS friends will take

advantage of. English Homes and Country Tours, the British company that conducts these fine trips, has agreed to offer us the same bonus that the New Hanover Arboretum enjoyed last year. That group got \$100.00 back from the tour company for each participant. So, with 33 travelers on the trip, the Arboretum got a donation of \$3300.00.

We can do the same thing. I will only need 20 participants for this trip to "fly," but we can handle 30 or more. There will be interest from my friends in Wilmington and Fayetteville and slots will be filled on a first-come basis. But, the ACCS will have an early chance to join the trip, and I hope my camellia friends will consider going. It could be a very good money-maker for the ACCS, and I promise you it will be a great trip!! Call me for a brochure. Mary Nell and I would love for you to travel with us.

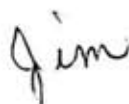
I always need good materials for the journal, and need your continuing help in that respect. Thanks to Paul Dahlen, Donna Shepherd and Greg Davis for sending photographs and newspaper articles for this issue. And, thanks to Sally Simon for sending me the newsletter of the Virginia Camellia Society. She announces therein that the Virginia chapter will have a camellia workshop at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens on August 28, and a nice trip to the Eliza-

bethan Gardens in Manteo on October 23. There is a fall show and plant sale at the Chesapeake Square Mall on November 6, and a spring show and plant sale at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens on March 25. What great publicity, Sally. If you would like to e-mail Sally for more information her address is:

Simon2ofus.aol.com

Please send me your newsletters and show dates. In this journal I have compiled a list of all Atlantic Coast clubs and their show dates. However, not all clubs have submitted their show dates to ACS (I talked to Ann Walton this morning), and therefore, some are not published herein. Please contact me if your dates are not on the list, or are incorrect. I would like to have a complete list of show dates for the January 1 issue.

Best wishes from hot Clinton, NC. Think about the England trip. I hope to see you in Myrtle Beach.



Know The Danger of Using Pesticides

By Roger Mercer
Fayetteville Observer-Times

Many of you have asked me why I seldom advocate the use of pesticides. Jim Shields, a friend, chemist and fellow daylily breeder, recently sent me a note by e-mail that answers that question far more precisely than I could. Here is what Shields has to say:

Lots of folks are rightly frightened of using toxic chemicals on their plants. That is why the government forces manufacturers to put all the detailed instructions (the government's idea) on the labels.

As a former biochemist, I can assure everyone that I detest and fear organophosphate pesticides. I also know that they or other "chemicals" are necessary in any mass planting of a single type of plant.

Reading the fine print is important in using chemicals. But there are sometimes insufficient warnings. A chemical that was widely used before modern labeling requirements were adopted may have been "grandfathered" on to the "Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) list.

That doesn't mean the chemical

YOUR GARDEN



Roger Mercer

is benign. Nicotine sprays can be especially dangerous.

Many people use detergents, or surfactant, and soaps as wetting agents to control insects or to help wet leaves when foliar fertilizers are applied. Detergents and surfactants (think of "surface activators") are more or less the same thing. Soaps are detergents and surfactants.

Soap, mostly potassium palmitate and potassium stearate, perhaps is ionic. What used to be sold as Dreft was industrial grade sodium dodecyl sulfate, also ionic.

There are non-ionic surfactants, too, such as "Tween," etc., which are mostly long-chain poly-alcohols.

The wetting agents you buy at the

garden center or the agricultural chemical cooperative are non-ionic surfactants. They are expensive, but I think they are potentially less damaging to plants.

If used incorrectly, detergents are toxic. Soaps are toxic. Surfactants are toxic. Use all with great caution. The thing about detergents is that too much of one may damage the plant. Use the minimum amount that causes your spray solution to wet the surface of the foliage. Anyone who thinks that detergents and soaps aren't "chemicals" is showing their naivete.

Some folks prefer to use only natural pesticides, like nicotine. If you think tobacco extract isn't dangerous, look up its LD50; nicotine is as toxic, or possibly more so, than Malathion if ingested or absorbed. It's just less volatile. If fumes scare you, use a less volatile pesticide. LD50 is the dose lethal to 50 percent of test organisms. It is usually measured in milligrams per kilogram, mg/kg.

Your usual aspirin contains about 300 mg of active ingredient per tablet (in order of magnitude, anyway). As pesticides go, nicotine is extremely toxic to mammals. If the LD50 values were determined in rats, you can increase the toxicity for humans two-to ten-fold; rats are tough little creatures! That is, it usually takes one-half to one-tenth as

much of a substance to achieve the same effect in humans that the larger dose achieved in rats.

If the tests were done on mice, the human doses would be pretty close to the mouse doses. The LD50 of 35 mg/kg means that a dose of 35 mg given to a 1 kilogram animal would kill half of the animals tested.

Someone suggested a while back that Orthene is less volatile than Cygon and hence less dangerous to use. Personally, I wouldn't mess with nicotine solutions for any amount of money. They are much too dangerous. I prefer to handle Malathion or even Orthene. By the way, organophosphates are nerve toxin, and so is nicotine.

Vegetable oil and detergent sprays are just a home-brew version of the dormant oil spray you can buy in late winter at the garden center or other agricultural chemical dealers. Use liquid vegetable oil-detergent mixtures at the same concentrations and with the same limitations you will find on the label of the dormant oil spray bottles.

Cooking oil-and-detergent sprays kill pests by the same mechanisms as dormant oil sprays do. Please don't be offended if you think I am calling you "naive". If you don't know any chemistry, then you are almost too naive to survive the 20th century.

We are surrounded by chemicals,

immersed in chemicals, and chemicals often save our lives. Half of us would be dying of malnutrition if it were not for chemical pesticides.

If hearing this bothers you, take it up with your local school board and your high school principal. Science education for the masses in this country is practically non-existent. It is perfectly all right to be a little embarrassed by ignorance, but it is shameful to do nothing about it. Here are some chemicals and their toxicity, based on how many milligrams per kilogram of body weight are required to kill half of the test animals the chemical is given to:

Highly Toxic – Nicotine, 35 milligrams per kilogram of body weight will kill half the mice it is given to.

Moderately Toxic – Durban, 97-276 milligrams per kilogram depending on formulation; gasoline, 150; caffeine, 200; Diazinon, 300-400; household ammonia, 350.

Slightly Toxic – Sevin, 500-850; 2,4-D (herbicide), 600; ammonium nitrate (fertilizer), 1000; Malathion, 1375; pyrethrins, 1500; table salt, 3000; boric acid, 3000.

Low Toxicity – Round-Up, 5400; Benlate, 10,000.

How long it takes certain chemicals to break down into non-toxic parts: Sevin, 24 hours; Malathion, 3-5 days; Diazinon, 7-10 days.

The above information was compiled from sources on the Internet, including the Alabama Extension Service, by Judy Lowe, Garden Editor, Chattanooga Free Press.



Sally Hardwick talks to Buck Mizzell and Fred Hahn at a Camellia show in Aiken, South Carolina. Massive Camellia reticulatas cover the table before them. (Shepherd)

Camellias Care in September and October

By Ray Bond
Dallas, Texas

Pruning: September is a good time to prune for several reasons.

- Looks. Some Nurseries prune camellias haphazardly to make them look "bushy" and so they will be easier to ship.
- Camellias are pruned to obtain cuttings for rooting.

These practices may leave dead stems and twigs which should be removed to the next lower node in order to prevent disease problems. Always prune away any dead wood on the plants you want to keep to sell in the spring or the following fall. For some reason, late pruning makes the blooms of some varieties larger. Internal limbs and shoots do very well as cuttings to root.

Feeding: September is the time for that last feeding of the season, if it was not done in August. I suggest a light application of 3-1-2, or a good 1-2-3 ratio fertilizer, perhaps with trace elements along with some cotton seed meal or composted cow manure as specified for August. You will want to add super phosphate (0-20-0) to help make strong blooms

and roots. Super phosphate is relatively slow to break down, so now is a good time to apply it for those camellias are preparing 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 your customers and their customers to want to buy a few more. Here are a few guidelines:

- 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 plant.

- If canker or lesions are apparent, reject the plant. It will be unhealthy and eventually die. Camellia dieback 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.
- Sometimes surgery with a sharp instrument such as a knife or dentist's burr is required to remove brown cankerous and/or dead wood, within a larger limb.

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, keep it and let it heal and grow back. If you ship a bad plant, you lose.

- 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 other than vigilance. Good wholesale nurseries do their best to keep all the varieties straight, but margin for error is always



Camellia lovers Esther Smith, Geraldine Caruso, Sil Caruso, Ogle Hess, Mildred Hess and Ann Brown discuss their favorite flower at last year's annual meeting at Myrtle Beach. Herb Racoff, Ed Powers and Parker Connor head for the bar in the background.

(Shepherd)

there. Naturally, the best identification is the bloom.

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

Other **September** considerations:

Wholesale and retailer, be sure to continue to watch for aphids. They can be very damaging at this time of year. Aphids will attack and ruin camellia flower buds. There may be latent new growth which they will attack and destroy. 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 and the early blooming camellias, the *C. sasanquas*, are coming into bloom. A few early blooming *C. japonicas* may be coming in. Many early blooming *C. japonicas* are already in bloom by late October.

September is the time to gather seed pods. If you like to plant camellia

seeds, do it now. 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. They can be planted immediately. They do not need a drying period. If they must be stored, put them in a refrigerator. Do not let the seeds dry.

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 a layer of seeds in the mixture, just under the surface of the soil. I like to use a 72 cell liner tray. Seal it up in a plastic bag or place it in a moist (fog is great) location. Put the tray in a warm place, 70° F is great, with about 50% to 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 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 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 a way out, it will hold the plant to the ground and can be very troublesome.

If you want to grow them in the ground, leave the tap root. I keep seedlings in container 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. Remember, even the newest of roots must have air.

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. Protect new seedlings. Squirrels and other rodents love camellia seeds and sprouts 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 saleable plants and blooms. You will, one in about 50. I do a lot of grafting and I use seedlings for root stock when they don't pan out as producers of superior blooms. One problem is that the first year's blooms are rarely true.

You don't know what the bloom will ultimately look like until the second or even third year after it begins to bloom.

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 the state. Always follow instructions on the label.

Camellia Care in September and October was prepared by Ray Bond for publication in *North Carolina Nursery Notes*, the journal of the North Carolina Nursery Association, and is reprinted with their permission.

Atlantic Coast Camellia Show Dates

- October 8-9, 1999: Mid-Carolina Camellia Society
South Carolina State Fair
Columbia, South Carolina
- October 16-17, 1999: Middle Georgia Camellia Society
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Perry, Georgia
- November 6, 1999: Virginia Camellia Society
Chesapeake Mall
Chesapeake, Virginia
- November 13-14, 1999: Middle Georgia Camellia Society
Massee Lane
Ft. Valley, Georgia
- November 17-18, 1999: Federated Garden Clubs of Waycross
Sun Trust Bank of Southeast Georgia
Waycross, Georgia
- November 20-21, 1999: Valdosta Camellia Society
Crescent Garden Center
Valdosta, Georgia
- December 4, 1999: Albany Men's Garden Club
Albany Mall
Albany, Georgia
- December 4, 1999: Mandarin Garden Club
Camellia Society of North Florida
Jacksonville, Florida
- December 4-5, 1999: Jacksonville Beach Women's Club
Isle of Beaches Camellia Society
Jacksonville Beach, Florida
- January 8-9, 2000: Gainesville Camellia Society
The Oaks Mall
Gainesville, Florida

- January 8-9, 2000: Tallahassee Camellia Society
Tallahassee Mall
Tallahassee, Florida
- January , 2000: Aiken Camellia Club
Aiken Mall
Aiken, South Carolina
- January 22, 2000: Coastal Carolina Camellia Society
Citadel Mall
Charleston, South Carolina
- January , 2000: Thomasville Garden Club
Thomasville Garden Center
Thomasville, Georgia
- January 29-30, 2000: Camellia Society of Southeast Georgia
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Savannah, Georgia
- February , 2000 Charlotte Camellia Society
Carolina Place Mall
Pineville, North Carolina
- February 5, 2000: Savannah Camellia Club
Oglethorpe Mall
Savannah, Georgia
- February , 2000: Mid-Carolina Camellia Society
Columbia Mall
Columbia, South Carolina
- February , 2000: North Georgia Camellia Society
Atlanta Botanical Gardens
Atlanta, Georgia
- February , 2000: Massachusetts Camellia Society
The Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

February , 2000:	Tidewater Camellia Club Independence Mall Wilmington, North Carolina
March 3, 2000:	Middle Georgia Camellia Society Houston Mall Warner Robins, Georgia
March 4-5, 2000:	Fayetteville Camellia Club Cross Creek Mall Fayetteville, North Carolina
March , 2000:	Piedmont Camellia Society Holly Hill Mall Burlington, North Carolina
March 25, 2000:	Virginia Camellia Society Norfolk Botanical Garden Norfolk, Virginia
April , 2000:	Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley U. S. National Arboretum Washington, D. C.
April , 2000:	Pioneer Camellia Society Baltimore, Maryland

After checking with Ann Walton at ACS on August 4, 1999, I find that nearly half of the clubs in our region have not officially reported their show date to ACS. Therefore, I am printing the above information as accurately as possible. However, if I have made an error in your show date or location, or left out pertinent information that you would like included, please contact me ASAP. I need to make all changes prior to going to press in December for the edition of this journal that will be mailed January 1, 2000. Let me hear from you. Jdarden@sampson.cc.nc.us

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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