

# Carolina Camellias



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# Carolina Camellias

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## *About the Cover*

'MASSEE LANE'—a seedling of the New Zealand hybrid 'PHYL DOAK' developed by Milo Rowell, Fresno, and named for the garden at ACS Headquarters, Fort Valley, Georgia.

# SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## *President's Message*



T. C. EVANS

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as President of the South Carolina Camellia Society for another year, and wish to thank those members present at the Annual Meeting who made this possible. Some progress was made last year on increased membership and improved communication within the Society, but much still remains to be done. I urge you to start working now to obtain new members for 1973, and to promptly inform either the Editor of Carolina Camellias or me of personal news items about our members.

Speaking of our Editor, Mr. Carroll T. Moon, I deeply regret announcing that the Board of Directors reluctantly accepted his resignation when we met in Charleston on November 18, 1972. Carroll has found that the responsibilities of this demanding assignment are a heavier burden than he and Louise can cope with comfortably, and asked to be relieved of these responsibilities after publication of the 1973 Spring issue. This will mark the completion of eight years of outstanding devotion and dedication to the dissemination of news pertaining to the genus camellia, and equally of significance the wonderful people engaged in growing, exhibiting, propagating, and promoting this beautiful flower. On behalf of the Society, I extend Carroll thanks for a magnificent job.

The Board of Directors unanimously elected Carroll T. Moon to the rank of Editor Emeritus of CAROLINA CAMELLIAS, and also elected Mrs. Pearl D. Cooper of Springfield, South Carolina Editor of CAROLINA CAMELLIAS. Mrs. Cooper will be completely responsible for publication of this bulletin starting with the Fall 1973 issue, and I urge you to supply her with informative and timely articles that will maintain the high camellia news standards we have experienced.

THOMAS C. EVANS,  
*President.*

# NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## *President's Message*



GEORGE B. HERNDON

DEAR MEMBERS:

I am honored to be elected your president and look forward to your enthusiastic support during this year. The reception given us in Washington, North Carolina, the beautiful show staged by the Washington Council of Garden Clubs in connection with the North Carolina Camellia Society and the general fellowship will be my inspiration for my term as president. I feel that the North Carolina Camellia Society is on the move. Please help keep the momentum.

Sincerely,

GEORGE B. HERNDON

# VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## *President's Message*



DR. ANNE LEE, M.D.

DEAR MEMBERS:

Our Fall show represented a new venture. For the first time we staged the show in the Military Circle shopping mall. The date was earlier than usual by almost a month, but we had enough blooms to create a tremendous amount of interest. We staged a display on "How to use gibberellic acid" and distributed a leaflet explaining the process. We also sold the gibberellic acid to interested viewers. It was surprising to see the reaction of the onlookers that ranged from "they are almost as pretty as roses" to "I never knew they bloomed at this time of the year." The main objective to bring Camellias to the people in a busy shopping mall was to create more interest and maybe a casual onlooker may become an enthusiastic Camellia grower.

Hopefully we will stage our Spring show March 24, 1973 in the Military Circle shopping mall. The added advantage for our out-of-town visitors will be that all activities will take place in one location. The beautiful Sheraton Hotel will accommodate the visitors and the new shops in this beautiful shopping center will certainly be an added attraction.

All we need is a kindlier winter than the last one. We are looking forward to seeing many of our friends during the coming Camellia season and we hope to see as many as possible at our Spring show.

Sincerely,

DR. ANNE LEE

# SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

THOMAS C. EVANS, <i>President</i> .....	609 Laurel Dr., Aiken, S. C.
T. NEAL COX, <i>Vice President</i> .....	Star Rt. 2, Box 2, Georgetown, S. C.
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P. D. RUSH, <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	Box 177, Lexington, S. C.
R. F. BROWNLEE, <i>Chairman of Test Garden</i> .....	Box 1170, Anderson, S. C.
H. D. PREGNALL, <i>Past President</i> .....	1356 Emory Dr., Edgewater Park, Charleston, S. C.

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Maj. Gen. Harold A. Bauer, District No. 5 .....	520 Matteson Ave., Sumter, S. C.
Frank Key, District No. 6 .....	520 Azalea Lane, Florence, S. C.

# NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

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Mrs. George Herndon, <i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	433 Holly Lane, Fayetteville, N. C.
Mrs. C. M. Allen, <i>Historian</i> .....	1812 Live Oak Parkway, Wilmington, N. C.

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Dr. Frontis W. Johnston .....	Box 217, Davidson, N. C.

# VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

DR. ANNE L. LEE, <i>President</i> .....	3505 White Chapel Road, Norfolk, Va.
ROBERT O. MATHEWS, <i>1st Vice President</i> .....	Norfolk Azalea Gardens, Airport Road, Norfolk, Va.
W. C. GORNTO, <i>2nd Vice President</i> .....	2708 Chester Forest Court, Virginia Beach, Va.
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# SHOW DATES

<i>Place, Location and Sponsor</i>	<i>Date</i>
Mobile, Ala., Camellia Club of Mobile, Civic Center Auditorium, in connection with ACS Annual Meeting .....	January 18, 19, 20, 1973
Georgetown, S. C., Georgetown Youth Center, The Council of Garden Clubs in Georgetown .....	January 20-21, 1973
Thomasville, Ga., The South Georgia Camellia Society and Thomasville Garden Clubs .....	January 20-21, 1973
Aiken, S. C., Kennedy Jr. High School, Aiken Camellia Club .....	January 27-28, 1973
Savannah, Ga., Citizen's & Southern Bank, DeSoto Hilton Complex, Bull and Liberty Sts., The Men's Garden Club of Savannah .....	February 3, 1973
Beaufort, S. C., High School, Men's Horticultural Society and Beaufort Garden Club .....	February 10-11, 1973
Columbia, S. C., American Bank & Trust Co., Bluff Rd., Mid-Carolina Camellia Club .....	February 10-11, 1973
Statesboro, Ga., Sea Island Bank, The Ogeechee Camellia Society .....	February 10-11, 1973
Atlanta, Ga., Mall at Phipps Plaza, 3500 Peachtree Rd., N.E., Atlanta Camellia Society, North Georgia Camellia Society and Buckhead Lions Club .....	February 17-18, 1973
Augusta, Ga. ....	February 17-18, 1973
Whiteville, N. C., Southeastern Community College, Whiteville Camellia Society .....	February 17-18, 1973
Charlotte, N. C., The Charlotte Men's Camellia Club .....	February 24-25, 1973
Wilmington, N. C., Timme Plaza Motor Inn (Downtown), Tidewater Camellia Club .....	February 24-25, 1973
Fayetteville, N. C., Fayetteville Camellia Club .....	March 3-4, 1973
Greensboro, N. C., Walter Page High School, Men's Piedmont Camellia Club .....	March 17-18, 1973
Norfolk, Va., Military Circle Mall, Virginia Camellia Society .....	March 24-25, 1973



# Distinguished Service Recognized

Three South Carolinians were bestowed Honorary Memberships in the South Carolina Camellia Society at the recent Annual Meeting because of distinguished contributions to local, state, and national camellia societies, a never-ending enthusiasm in promoting camellia interest, and outstanding contributions to camellia husbandry. Honorary members pay no dues for the remainder of their lives, yet enjoy the rights and privileges of paid members.

Biographical sketches prepared by close friends of those honored follow:

## *John A. Tyler, Jr.*

By PEARLE D. COOPER

Returning to his home town of Wagener, South Carolina after the war, John A. Tyler, Jr., became active in the family retail furniture company. After business hours, he landscaped the large lots around his home. His camellia hobby dates back to the spring of 1947 when he cut down a large sasanqua and grafted 18 scions of a Ville De Nantes on its trunk. Seventeen of these were successful and this large plant is his pride and joy today. From 1947 until 1970, his friends would find John spraying, pruning, and fertilizing any afternoon they visited him. He never missed a Camellia Show and exhibited his choicest blooms all over the South. It was at one of these shows that he met and fell in love with Miss Martha Anne Horton of Aiken, South Carolina. They were married on May 28, 1960.

John and Martha Anne also had one of the largest collections of bearded irises in South Carolina. From 1962 to 1965 he was President of the State Iris Society and a judge of Iris and Garden Shows for the American Iris Society.

In 1963 John was elected Vice President of the South Carolina Camellia Society. In 1965 he was elected President and served the Society in this position capably until 1967. In January of 1970 he was elected Vice President of the American Camellia Society. One week later tragedy struck our camellia world when suddenly John became ill with a severe stroke and was hospitalized for seven months. He is still confined to a wheel chair but enjoys all the Camellia Journals and visiting with his many camellia friends in his greenhouse. One year later, John attended the Aiken Camellia Show and entered prize winning blooms—winning four silver awards. A few weeks later his "Snowman" won Best Treated Camellia in the Augusta Camellia Show. Camellias are the best therapy and a lifeline for John Tyler. His "Green Thumb" is still working—directing Martha Anne when and what to do in the greenhouse for his favorite flower.

May he continue to attend our Camellia Shows and share his lovely blooms with us.

## **Emory J. Prevatt**

*By MR. AND MRS. F. N. BUSH*

Mr. Emory J. Prevatt came to Charleston, South Carolina in the early 1930's to work with the U. S. Postal Service. He became interested in some of the flowers that he saw blooming in Hampton Park. He got cuttings, rooted them, and that was the beginning of his life with camellias and Shady Acre Nursery. He soon began to hear about grafting, but being unable to find any information as to how it was done he began to experiment. After much traveling, talk, and help of friends they came up with the present day way.

Shady Acres Nursery was quite young when information arrived about Gibberellic Acid, how to use it, the results, and where it could be obtained. Mr. Prevatt, thinking there was nothing to it, would have nothing to do with it.

At one time, Mr. Prevatt was consultant on the gardens at Chelsea, Cherokee, Castle Hill and Mepkin Plantations, and Pirates Cruz Gardens. He was the first nurseryman to sell scions.

'MARGUERITE CANNON', 'ONE ALONE', 'ERIN FARMER', 'HALLMARK', 'ELIZA-

BETH DOWD', and 'JULIA FRANCE', the beautiful flower that won the Illges Award last year, are some of the seedlings that were on the land next to the nursery in Edgewater Park that Mr. Prevatt sold to Mr. Ashby.

After Mr. Prevatt retired, he moved to his home on Lake Moultrie, where he fishes from early until late if there's no work to be done with his camellias. He is now a Vice President of the American Camellia Society and one of the few remaining Charter Members of the Organization. He is also a Charter Member of S.C.C.S. He always finds time for his friends and if they are interested in camellias gives freely of his knowledge. One of the first things that he will tell you is, if a plant is not healthy, not outstanding, and does not perform well, do away with it.

"Pappy" Prevatt, as he is affectionally known by his friends is a good cook, likes for you to visit him at his home, but—he's known best of all for his STORIES. We need more around us like him. May the Good Lord Bless and keep him healthy and here with us for a long, long time.

## **Herbert L. Benson**

*By J. U. SMITH*

Herbert and Ruth Benson of Columbia, South Carolina have been growing camellias since 1934. One of their earlier home places consisted of two lots in order that they would have adequate space for camellias.

After establishing a nice camellia garden at a later home they decided to build a home more appropriate for entertaining their camellia friends and grandchildren. The ideal place was among the large camellia plants

in the vacant lot adjacent to the former home place, a ready-made camellia garden.

Many camellia friends from across the country have enjoyed the splendid hospitality provided by the Benson's in their home here and elsewhere. They have done much to put Columbia and South Carolina on the camellia map.

Herbert served at least two terms as director from the Columbia area on the Board of the South Carolina Camellia Society. He served two full terms (the maximum) as director for South Carolina on the Governing Board of the American Camellia Society.

While on the Governing Board, he was on various committees and work-

of an endowment fund for the benefit of ACS. He gave generously of himself and his contributions have done much toward giving ACS a brighter future. Herbert's tireless efforts, together with his and Ruth's hospitality, have effected a strong imprint of South Carolina upon ACS Headquarters at Fort Valley and upon the membership throughout the country.

ed diligently toward getting the national headquarters completed at Fort Valley, Georgia and the establishing

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

The best way to enjoy gardening is to put on a wide straw hat, dress in thin, loose fitting clothes, hold a towel in one hand and a cool drink in the other, and tell the man where to dig.

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## A New Club

# Piedmont Camellia Society

By W. M. "BUS" WALKER

Having attended a number of camellia shows this past year, a number of people asked "What in the world has happened to the camellia clubs in the Piedmont area?"

I think what had happened to the Spartanburg club was typical of the area. Spartanburg started out in 1961 with 25 active members. During its existence, it had put on two camellia exhibits and 7 very successful accredited shows. During this period, sponsors and members decreased. In 1970, with an active membership of 6 or 7 growers, it was decided to disband.

It was felt that, with the remaining Spartanburg members as a nucleus, there certainly should be enough interested growers in our Piedmont area to form a Piedmont Camellia Society. State President and National Director Tom Evans encouraged this idea.

Using the S. C. Camellia Society roster as a guide, 18 letters were sent to members in Anderson, Belton, Clemson, Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg, including a return post card. Of the 18 letters sent out, 17 replies were received, with 16 expressing interest in this undertaking. Wives were especially invited to our first supper meeting held in Greer on September 14, with 27 people attending, plus Tom Evans and Paul Dahlen coming up from Aiken.

There appeared to be real interest in forming such a club, as those in

attendance were already thinking of other growers who should want to join with us three or four times a year to talk camellias. I think the big reason our first meeting was a success, is due to the fact that it wasn't "stag." Although the men might claim the credit, most of us know (and appreciate) those responsible for most of the work.

Our next meeting will be held again in Greer in November. It is hoped that during 1973 we can really get off the ground and flying with an estimated 50 members. With the spirit and enthusiasm expressed at our first meeting, we should be off and running next year.

W. M. "BUS" WALKER.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

## Son Hackney Replies to an Honor

"Thank you" to an anonymous friend. Ann and I would like to thank you for the lovely needle point Camellia pillow you had presented to us at the A.C.S. Fall meeting in Columbia. We will cherish and enjoy it for many years to come.

Hopefully you will make yourself known so we may thank you in person. One thing for sure you must be a lover of Camellias as well as people.

May God bless you and thanks again from the bottom of our hearts.

SON AND ANN HACKNEY.

# Report on the S.C.C.S. Fall Meeting

By MRS. PAUL (MARIE) DAHLEN

President T. C. Evans presided over the South Carolina Camellia Society's annual Fall meeting held in the Wade Hampton Hotel, in Columbia, on November 4th. Many of those in attendance were long-standing friends of this Society and members in Columbia for the Fall Meeting of the American Camellia Society. These persons were recognized and welcomed by the president.

Reading of the minutes was deleted from the regular business Buddy Pregnall called upon Carroll Moon, nominations chairman, who presented the slate of officers composed of all current ones, each of whom had consented to serve another year. Since no nominations were added, these persons were unanimously accepted as read: T. C. Evans, president; T. Neal Cox, first vice president; B. E. Stockman, second vice president; Paul A. Dahlen, third vice president; P. D. Rush, secretary-treasurer; and R. F. Brownlee, chairman of test garden.

Mr. Evans gave the second reading of the revisions to the Bylaws as they appeared in the Fall issue of Carolina Camellias. These changes were duly approved. Districts (2), (4), and (6) met in caucus and re-elected Jack Teague (2), Stanley Holtzclaw (4), and Frank Key, Sr. was elected to serve district (6).

Out of respectful recognition of their untiring involvement and dedication to the promotion and culture

of the camellia, and for their implementation of official tasks over the past many years, citations were read and presented on the Messers: Emory Prevatt, John Tyler, Jr., and Herbert L. Benson. These persons received a standing ovation. The contents of the three citations will be printed in a separate article.

Mr. Prevatt stated that he was one of four Charter Members present. The others were Dr. and Mrs. H. G. Mealing, and Wendell M. Levi.

Announcement was made of the Spring Meeting to be held in Charleston at the Mills Hyatt House on April 7, and that Buddy Pregnall will accept reservations for the Luncheon and Tour of Magnolia Gardens being planned.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

## Hear Any Gripes?

Our forefathers did without sugar until the 13th century, without coal fires until the 12th century, without buttered bread until the 15th century, without potatoes until the 16th century, without pudding until the 18th century, without gas and matches and electricity until the 19th century, without canned goods until the 20th century and we have had automobiles for only a comparatively few years.

Now what was it you were complaining about?

—*Scottish Rite News.*

# Time To Reexamine Some Of Our Sacred Cows?

By JAMES H. MCCOY  
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Not much was known about camellia culture back in the mid thirties when interest in this marvelous plant began to grow. Those who began to acquire them had to go "by guess and by God," especially in container culture. If you doubt this, read the account of Mr. Emory Prevatte's early attempts at grafting in Carolina Camellias for Fall, 1966. They learned much and were generous and helpful to those who followed by passing on what they had learned.

But everything evolves. We're not using the same potting soil we were using 35 years ago. Our containers have changed, as have fertilizer programs, insecticides, fungicides and almost every other facet of camellia culture. Perhaps some cultural practices which were valid in the past should no longer be followed and recommended to beginners.

On a visit to a nursery in 1968, while talking to one of our prominent nursery men, I watched as some workers were repotting camellias. I noticed that they were not putting any drainage material in the bottom of the containers. When I mentioned this to the nursery owner, he told me, "Oh, you don't need it. People just think that you do". This is contrary to all advice you ever see on how to pot up camellias. Our best known and most respected camellia growers recommend that you place an inch or two of gravel, pine bark, or something else in the bottom of the container

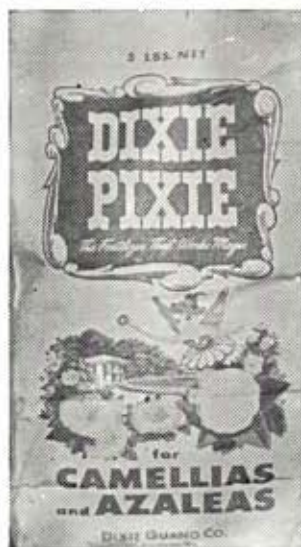
to assist in drainage. I wonder if people aren't following this procedure and passing this advice along, without questioning its advisability, just because somebody said so. My own experience has led me to abandon the use of any drainage material at all. I have gone to great trouble to get washed gravel for this use only to abandon it because when the roots grew down to the gravel, they stopped growing, turned brown and dried up at the tips. I have used pine bark and quit because I found that I had a soggy mass in the bottom of all my containers. Broken pieces of styrofoam have been used with such poor results till I could look at a plant and tell if it had styrofoam in the bottom of the container. Now, I just put a couple of inches of potting soil in the bottom of the container prior to placing the plant, and fill in around it. The roots grow right down to the bottom, curl around the container and provide the plants with the "oomph" they need.

Most growers will tell you that grafting should be done in January, February or March. Some, with a clear conscience, state that it may be done during any month or whenever a suitable scion is available. Theoretically, this is correct, but articles on camellias should be guides for beginners. How many trusting novices, with high hopes, graft in the dead of summer when fungus or something else will kill almost all scions so carefully in-

serted. How many hopes are dashed on the rocks when beginners, armed with this information, graft in the fall and winter when the scions have to just sit there until March before any scion can take place. Why don't we advise beginners to graft in very late February or March and let it go at that. I believe that most growers will admit that this is by far the best time for grafting in our part of the country.

Another recommended cultural practice that I cannot quite accept is this business of deliberately bringing about a pot bound condition to our plants. I acknowledge that many of our growers produce magnificent blooms from pot bound plants, but would they not have produced just as beautiful and big blooms, or big-

ger, if they had not been pot bound? I believe that the reason camellias produce good blooms even though pot bound is because they have such a wonderful ability to adjust to adversity. If a potting mix is friable enough, I do not believe that the soil will "sour" if it is not filled with roots. Our early growers were not using nearly so porous a soil as we are using now, or at least that is the impression I get from old literature. If this is indeed true, then too much soil in a pot certainly might be detrimental to the health of a plant. I think we should quit recommending that plants be held in containers which are too small for roots to develop properly. Better advice would be to move plants frequently as they become larger and larger so as to give roots adequate



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LAURINBURG, N. C.

room to grow. This just seems to make good sense to me and my healthy plants bear me out.

While I'm making enemies on all sides, I might as well go one step further. Some of the recommended fertilizer practices would absolutely make anyone throw up his hands in despair, especially those that included fish emulsion, blood meal, fresh cow manure in a burlap bag, etc. Even old cow manure, though an excellent fertilizer, should not be recommended because of its unavailability. It would seem, judging by my inability to find any, that cows have ceased to produce it. The fertilizer makers have come up with some excellent chemical fertilizers until such complicated, messy practices are unnecessary. The im-

pression is often given that fertilizer of a certain chemical analysis must be applied at one time and another analysis at another time and still another at another time. The poor beginner must surely be frustrated, especially if he reads two or three articles on fertilizer practice. It's too bad that beginners could not all read Mr. Jack Jones article on fertilizing outdoor camellias in the spring issue of Carolina Camellias for 1965 and Mr. Bob Waters article on fertilizing container plants in the 1972 yearbook. These articles may overly simplify the job of fertilizing, but they surely do strip away much of the mystery.

Other sacred cows that I believe could be disposed of (though I admit that I have no experience upon which to base my beliefs) are these:

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'VALLEE KNUDSEN'	'GRAND PREX'	'MARGURITE SEARS'	'SUZY WONG'
'SNOWMAN'	'FORTY NINER'		

#### AND MANY OTHERS

*Please write for complete list*



Don't plant camellias close to a masonry wall as lime in the soil is dangerous.

Don't plant camellias close to a light colored house or other light colored structure as the reflected light and heat might be dangerous.

Cut off air layers before the first hard freeze as the young roots might freeze and ruin the operation.

Spray outdoor plants with water prior to a hard freeze to prevent cold damage.

Sterilize cutting instruments after each graft in order not to accidentally spread color breaking virus.

Dip shears in fungicide frequently during pruning operations to prevent spreading die-back fungus from plant to plant.

Don't fertilize new grafts as you might kill them.

What I am saying is that I believe we are doing ourselves and new members a disservice by continuing to pass along outdated instructions, recommending unproved methods, discouraging experimentation, exaggerating the "prima donna" characteristics of the genus camellia and trying to make a real chore out of something that should be a pleasurable hobby.

---

## *An Invitation to Join*

### **SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

Membership which runs with the Calendar year, January 1 through December 31, entitles you to three issues of "CAROLINA CAMELLIAS", issued usually in January, March, and October, which has more regular features, authentic feature articles in Grafting, Planting, Feeding, Gardens, Sasanquas, Judging, Pruning, Arrangement, Disbudding, Diseases, Spraying, and Mulching, to mention a few. Also, there are photographs and other types of illustrations.

The South Carolina Camellia Society will welcome you as a member. For your convenience an application blank is printed below.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP—\$3.00**  
**LIFE MEMBERSHIP—\$50.00**

---

**Please Make Payment to:**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
Post Office Box 177  
LEXINGTON, S. C. 29072

Please enroll the individual shown below and bill for \$3.00  or enclosed herewith is \$3.00 .

Membership runs with the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. All issues of "CAROLINA CAMELLIAS" for the current year will be sent.

(Please Print or Type) Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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(City)  
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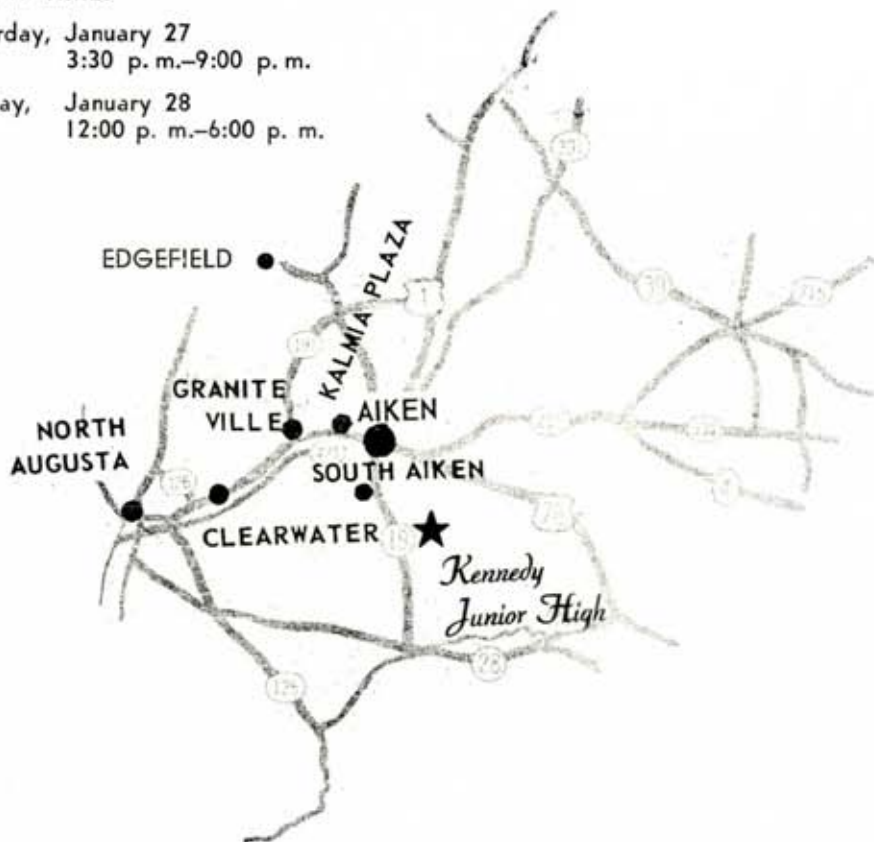
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE  
W. C. Robertson, President, Aiken Camellia Club

Entry Cards can be obtained from W. C. Robertson  
841 Westover Dr.  
Aiken, S. C. 29801

### SHOW TIMES

Saturday, January 27  
3:30 p. m.—9:00 p. m.

Sunday, January 28  
12:00 p. m.—6:00 p. m.



# A Camellia Personality

By KATHRYN SNOW ALLEN

From my earliest memories, I can recall that in any endeavor in which Uncle Les took an interest, whether it were business or hobbies, he has had only one method; that of complete dedication. When radio was in its infancy, he built the first radio set in Birmingham, Alabama. The demand for these early sets was so great that he established a business building radio sets, doing this work at night while conducting his regular business during the daytime. This grew to the point that he could not conduct both businesses, so he sold the radio manufacturing operation, and continued in the textile bag business.

After living in Birmingham a few years, he took up golf and pursued this with his normal enthusiasm, attaining a game with a low handicap. While still in Birmingham, he learned to fly. Most of this flying was in an open cockpit biplane. His enthusiasm was so great for this hobby, that Aunt Kathryn also acquired her license and flew with him. During this time, he also acquired a hobby of woodworking, and I remember well, when I had my tonsils out, he made me a "kitty-kat" chair, with the features of a cat scrolled into the back of the chair. This hobby also carried over later, when in 1946 the Marburys built a beach house at Wrightsville Beach, N. C. He built a hunt board, a dining room table, most of the

lamps, and a standing card table for furnishing this house.

In 1935, seeing the opportunity of opening a bag plant near a deep water port, Uncle Les and Aunt Kathryn moved to Wilmington, N. C. During the period between 1935 and 1940, he was completely occupied in building up this new business. In 1940, they built their home on Forest Hills Drive, and after the completion of construction, the question of landscaping arose.

Two good friends, Naomi and Irving Corbett, suggested that he plant camellias around their new home. Suggestions from Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Sprunt of Orton Plantation, and several nurserymen in the area, gave him the start that grew into a real dedication to the growing and propagation of camellias. In his methodical manner, he began grafting, rooting, and growing seedlings, keeping detailed records on the characteristics and development of all these plants. His next step was the building of two greenhouses, and the controlled growing of many of the finest varieties available. It did not take long until the Marbury home was turned into a beautiful camellia garden.

Realizing that the exchange of information and ideas concerning camellias could benefit both him and other growers, in 1945, he became a charter member of the infant American Camellia Society, along with such



LES MARBURY

camellia greets as John Illges, Dave Strother, Jeff Smith, Judge Solomon, Maxwell Murray, Dr. Hume, and many others.

As she had joined him in his other hobbies, Aunt Kathryn took a great interest in camellias, and joined him in being accredited as a horticultural judge in ACS. She turned her own talents toward the recording of the beauty of the camellia, and has painted water colors of a large collection of the more famous blooms.

For a while, the development of seedlings was one of his major projects, growing thousands of seedlings from his own seed. When Carl and I were living in Japan, the only request we had from him during our stay, was for some seed from good varieties

of Japanese seed. We were able to get him a pound of seed from the collection of the Chiba University, near Tokyo. From his experiments with seedlings came several varieties that are now well known. Among these are, 'KATHRYN MARBURY', 'KATHRYN SNOW', 'IRVING CORBETT', 'SARA BELLAMY', 'KAY ACKER', and 'DR. HUFFMAN'.

In 1955, he became Vice President of ACS for the Atlantic Coast, and in 1956, accepted for a year, the Presidency of the American Camellia Society. During this year, one of the projects on which he had worked for several years came to fruition. This was the year that the standard camellia nomenclature was clarified. As President Emeritus, he was most in-

# Annual Augusta



Once again The Annual Augusta Camellia Show was honored by the presence of Mrs. Mamie Dowd Eisenhower shown here enjoying the prize winning blooms with Mrs. Sherman Drawdy.

# Camellia Show

## **Georgia Railroad Bank Building**

**Broad Street at 7th**

(Free Parking in The Georgia's 7th Street Parking Garage)

SHOW TIMES: Saturday, February 17, 3:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 18, 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

LOCAL ENTRIES: Saturday, February 17, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

OUT OF TOWN ENTRIES: Saturday, February 17, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in The Augusta Camellia Show, co-sponsored by The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. and The American Camellia Society.

Once again, Georgia Railroad Bank & Trust is pleased to host this beautiful show in the Main Banking Room of the Georgia Railroad Bank Building. Members of our staff work with the sponsors to make this an outstanding event in the area.

Information on entries may be obtained from Mrs. Guy H. Combs, Chairman of the Show, 4340 Owens Road, Evans, Georgia 30809, or Mrs. M. W. Dunham, Co-Chairman, 712 Hickman Road, Augusta, Georgia 30904.

Mrs. Combs (Nell) may be reached at (404) 863-3635. Mrs. Dunham (Blanche) at (404) 733-3945.

## **Georgia Railroad Bank & Trust**

terested in establishing a home for ACS, and worked diligently toward that end.

He and Aunt Kathryn have followed the camellia shows each year since their entry into ACS, and I understand that he holds the record of attending more ACS meetings than any member, now living.

He has recently announced, that after 60 years in the textile bag business, he plans to retire at the end of this year, devoting more time to golf, gin rummy, travel and his camellias.

Kathryn Snow Allen

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

## Coastal Carolina Camellia Show

The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society will hold their twenty-third annual spring show on January 27th and 28th, 1973, at the Charles Towne Landing in Charleston, S. C. entries will be accepted from 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, January 27. All local entries must be received by 11:00 a. m. Mr. Edward Y. Ulmer, President, invites everyone to attend and exhibit. The show will be open to the public from 3:00 p. m. to 5:00 p. m. on Saturday, January 27, and from 10:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m., on Sunday, January 28. The show will be held regardless of the weather. Any additional information may be obtained from the show chairman, Mr. Wilmot E. Guthke, 1370 Fairfield Ave., Charleston, S. C. 29407.

Exhibitors will not have to pay to gain entrance to the landing Regular admission prices \$1.00 for adults and .50 for children 14 yrs. old and under,

will prevail for all others. Once inside the landing, there is no admission charge to the Camellia Show.

This beautiful and historic site provides the perfect setting for our lovely camellia blooms. Charles Towne Landing is one of the most unusual parks in the county, created as one of the major attractions for South Carolina's Tricentennial in 1970. The first English speaking colony in South Carolina was founded at Charles Towne in 1670. The 200 acre historic site was carefully developed to preserve the broad vistas of gardens and lagoons and provide exhibits that are entertaining and informative. A twenty acre section has been developed into an "Animal Forest", with those animals indigenous to South Carolina in 1670 displayed in their natural habitat.

We hope that you will come and enjoy our Camellia Show and the many other attractions which the landing has to offer.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

## South Carolina Camellia Society Spring Meeting to be in Charleston

On April 7, the membership of the South Carolina Camellia Society will meet for a luncheon at the Mills Hyatt House and a Tour of Magnolia Gardens.

Make your reservations with Buddy Pregnell as soon as possible. A luncheon at the Mills Hyatt House and a tour of Magnolia Gardens for only \$4.50.

Meet your Camellia friend on April 7, 1973, in Charleston.



# 1973 Augusta Camellia Show

By MRS. DOUGLAS BARNARD, JR.

First Vice President

Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Beautiful World of Camellias," the 1973 Annual Camellia Show, February 17-18, will again dramatize the cultural heritage of this exotic flower which has written pages on the gardening history of Augusta, Georgia.

Sponsored by the Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Augusta Camellia Society and Georgia Railroad Bank at The Georgia Building, Seventh and Broad, Augusta, the show attracts exhibitors from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Mrs. Guy Combs, 4340 Owens Road, Evans, Georgia, is 1973 Chairman and Mrs. M. W. Dunham is Co-Chairman.

Advance entry tags may be obtained by writing Mrs. Henry Eve, Georgetown Apartments, 2900 Walton Way, Augusta 30904. Out-of-Town specimens may be entered from 8:30 'til 11:30 a.m. on February 17. Local exhibitors are requested to enter blooms between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Entries are usually limited to two blooms of a variety, but when there is a season of poor weather as in 1972, this rule is rescinded and growers notified, so that the show will be attractive to viewers.

Hospitality is an important ingredient of the Augusta show. Judges

and Out-of-Town Exhibitors are guests of the Georgia Railroad Bank at a luncheon on the day of the show. Early arrivals are invited to a hospitality room for light refreshments and relaxation after they enter blooms.

Forty-two silver trophies were presented at the 1972 show. The section for Miniatures (blooms under 2½ inches) will be continued, since interest in this variety seems to be growing. The horticulture schedule will remain essentially the same as 1972, according to Arthur A. Cornell, President of the Augusta Camellia Society and Carl G. Wagner, Horticulture Staging Chairman. Mrs. William Agostas, Augusta, is President of the Augusta Council of Garden Clubs and Mrs. P. K. Jones is Chairman of Judges.

Arthur P. Baxter of The Georgia is Bank Liaison Officer in charge of coordinating the operation of the show.

James A. Blissit, well-known in the Atlanta Camellia world for several years, now a resident of Augusta, is Chairman of Receiving with Mrs. Henry Mura, Co-Chairman. Professional knowledge and handling assures the exhibitor at the Augusta Show of the best possible treatment of his specimens.

## Greenwood Club Exhibits at County Fair

West Carolina Camellia Club of Greenwood won a special Award Ribbon for its entry in the House of Flowers at the annual Greenwood County Fair.

This was an educational exhibit in miniature of a regular Camellia Show. Much advance planning took place and numbers of plants were Gibbed so as to have flowers available. Replacements were made daily to keep the blooms up to show quality.

The exhibit attracted many viewers and local club members discovered quite a few persons interested in Camellia culture whom they had not known about before. Growing and flowering plants were on display and

each step of Camellia culture was carefully portrayed.

This show was so successful and well received that it will be repeated. Mrs. Joe Wingard, Chairman; F. H. Maxwell, Jr.; R. J. Sprott; Lonnie H. Timmerman, President; and other members collaborated in this new project. New members were signed up for the local club as well as South Carolina Society and American Camellia Society.

So much interest in Camellias was generated it is suggested other clubs might undertake similar projects. This was made possible through use of "Gib" on both outside and greenhouse plants.



# Aiken's Mini Show

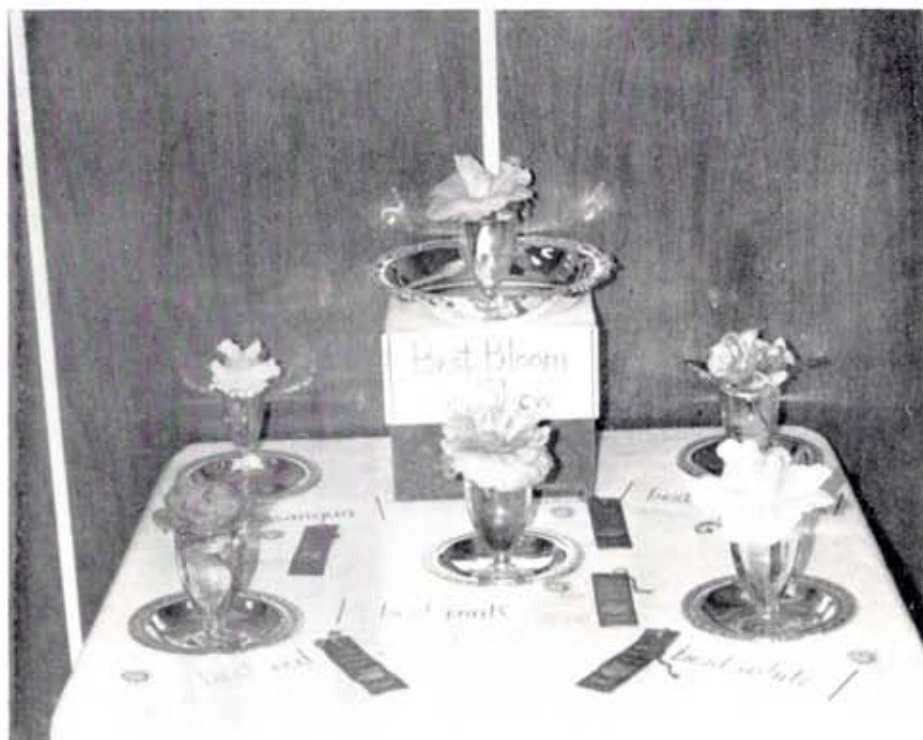
By JANET S. BURNS

Every original idea seems to go through three stages. At the beginning, people are likely to say that it conflicts with the Bible. Later they say that it was considered long ago. Finally, they say they always had thought it was a good idea.

B. T. wanted this kind of show for years. At an executive board meeting of the Aiken Camellia Club, the plan erupted and it came to fruition on Saturday, October 28, 1972 at the Farmers and Merchants Bank. (The bank, by the way, is the closest thing

the club will ever have to a fairy god-mother.)

The plan was to have novices enter their blooms and try for their first wins. To make growers aware of the wonders of gibberellic acid in producing large, early blooms, members of the Aiken Camellia Club had gibbed buds in September for anyone interested in the process, then left the acid remaining in the tube for the novice to try by himself. This was done by direction of President Bill Robertson and was not entirely altru-



Head Table at Aiken Mini Show



Spectators viewing the Aiken Mini Show

istic since the club is on a sustained search for new members.

The complexities of nomenclature were dispensed with by judging the flowers by color—red, pink, white, variegated, and sasanquas lumped into a class by themselves. Would you believe that even with this simplification, decisions had to be made? When is red pink?

Blooms were accepted on Saturday morning from 10 A.M. until noon. A continual wail went up about how full of stubborn buds the bushes were. The mulish things wouldn't open! Despite this calamity, 131 blooms were entered, by 31 exhibitors.

A lot was learned about the mechanics of entering camellias in a

show and in the informal, miniature setting, time could be given to instruction. One hopeful brought a substantial section of a bush with his bloom and was amazed to find out that only two leaves would be acceptable and that the stem must be short enough to fit the container. Another tried manfully to tack shattered petals back where they belonged.

Twenty-six varieties of camellias appeared on the tables and made a beautiful picture for visitors to approve. The intimate setting provided a sense of at-one-ness between viewers and flowers which was remarked upon by more than one guest.

The Judges, Mrs. J. Gardiner Weigle, Jr. of Augusta, Mr. Carroll T.

Moon of Columbia, and Mr. William M. Olliff of Aiken, were generous with their ribbons and tempered the winds of cold choice to the shorn lambs.

Happy winners were:

Clyde M. Ouzts—'PROF. SARGENT'—  
Best red

Trudi Clontz—'MARGUERITE CAN-  
NON'—Best pink

Mr. and Mrs. Gaines Washburn—  
'WHITE EMPRESS'—Best white

Olive Handley—'VILLE DE NANTES'  
—Best variegated

Maggie Edwards—Best sasanqua

Edwin R. Sanders, Jr.—'PINK EM-  
PRESS'—Best in Show

Now this group has a nucleus of sil-  
ver on which to build. There were  
four runners-up, too—W. M. Jackson,

Jr., Betty Fox and Mrs. Arne Havu,  
all of Aiken, and B. G. Beier, of North  
Augusta.

Staying modestly in the background,  
not being judged, were gorgeous  
blooms brought in by old hands at  
the head table—the Evans, the Dahl-  
ens, the Robertsons, Sarge Freeman,  
and others. These showed beginners  
what could be done on a graduate  
level!

First taste of success for some of  
the winners impelled them to wait  
for the show's closing at 4:30 P.M.  
to be on the spot to pick up their  
awards.

All members of the Aiken Camellia  
Club who volunteered to help, feeling  
that the undertaking had provided a  
rewarding service to the community,  
rejoiced and were glad.

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# Memorial

FRED H. SMITH

(Presented at meeting of Ogeechee Camellia Society, November 27, 1972)

By W. ROBERT SMITH

Mr. Fred H. Smith of Statesboro, Georgia passed away on August 23, 1972 at the age of 78. Born in Rockdale County, Georgia, he moved to Statesboro as a young boy. He was an honor graduate of Georgia Tech, World War I pilot, horticulturist, chemist, businessman, farmer and camellia grower.

Through the years, he introduced four new registered camellias: 'FRED H. SMITH', 'LUCILLE SMITH', 'BETTY FOY SANDERS' and 'JERRY SWINT'. Time did not permit the naming and registering of many other beautiful seedlings left in his garden at the time of his passing.

He served as a director of the Georgia Camellia Society for a number of years and generously supported the American Camellia Society as well as the Georgia Society and South Carolina Society. He and his wife, Lucille, were regular attenders of camellia shows. They looked forward to seeing their friends at the shows and meeting new camellia enthusiasts.

Mr. Fred's interests in life extended to many hobbies and an appreciation for many fine shrubs, but his major interest was always unquestionably the camellia. He termed it "the flower supreme". He organized the Ogeechee Camellia Society and served as its president two terms. Due to his ef-

forts, the Ogeechee Camellia Show has become an annual event of considerable importance in this area. His letters to the members and his contacts with other noted camellia growers kept the society supplied with fine programs and valuable resources.

Though he never sold a camellia, countless yards, gardens and parks boast of having gifts of Mr. Fred's camellias. His blooms were to be found in churches, hospitals, bridal bouquets, corsages, banquet tables, and especially in camellia shows where they were usually accompanied by blue ribbons and silver awards. He shared not only his plants and their lovely blooms, but also his vast knowledge and ability. In love for camellias, he lifted others to greater heights than ever could have been accomplished without him. During the camellia season, his garden, or as he called it "the patch", was a magnificent array of blooms and it was his pleasure to have appreciative visitors and engage in his favorite conversation—"camellia talk." To share his enthusiasm for camellias was to share the friendship of a remarkable man. His gift to friends was often hours of grafting lessons and demonstrations of planting and propagation techniques.

He was a gentleman of many fine qualities and talents, generous and

sincere, quiet and unassuming, but perceptive and interesting in his fellowman.

At the closing services at graveside, it was observed by his hosts of friends that there stood on the plot a strong

and vigorous camellia, planted a score of years ago, now filled with firm buds, waiting to fill the branches with his "flowers supreme"—close by the grave of this friend who now has "eternal life supreme."

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

### 28th Annual Meeting

Mobile, Alabama

January 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1973

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 18th

- 10:00 A. M. Registration opens; closes 6:00 P. M.  
See note below on registering choice of time for harbor trip.
- 1:00 P. M. 4:30 P. M. Hospitality Room
- 2:00 P. M. A. C. S. General Board Meeting
- 4:00 P. M. A. C. S. Trustees of Endowment Fund Meeting
- 6:00 P. M. Happy Hour

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th

- 9:00 A. M. Registration opens; closes 6:00 P. M.
- 9:30 A. M. General Meeting of American Camellia Society
- 1:00 P. M. Board Buses for garden tours and Bellingrath Gardens
- 5:00 P. M. Board Buses at Bellingrath Gardens for Dauphin Island and Seafood Jamboree.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th

- 8:30 A. M. Boat trips aboard yacht "Janelle III" 2-hour harbor tour.
- 12:30 P. M. Visit Battleship U. S. S. Alabama, submarine Drumm, and Army and Air Force exhibits.
- 3:00 P. M. Preview show—A. C. S. Members
- 3:30 P. M. Show is officially opened to public
- 3:30–5:00 P. M. Hospitality Room
- 6:30 P. M. Happy Hour
- 7:30 P. M. Annual banquet, Mardi Gras ball tableau by Mystic Crew de Bienville, and dancing.

**Note:** 2-hour harbor boat trips on yacht "Janelle III" will be available on Thursday after registration and on Saturday morning through 12:30 P. M. It is suggested that the wives of the Governing Board and Endowment Trustee members avail themselves of boat trips on Thursday during board meetings.

# TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

## *A Few Thoughts on Grafting (Camellias, not Political)*

By HENRY G. MEALING, M.D.

The moon has changed. Do I think the phase of the moon affects grafts? No, but it certainly affects people. I had a tic (lunatic) on camellias. The 1950 freeze went a long way toward curing this. But the last few fairly good winters have caused us to break out again. I have been growing camellias for forty-five years. An expert? No. I knew less about camellias than I did thirty years ago. Proof: I used to get many awards—now I seldom do. However, I still love camellias and think this love is increasing.

Many years ago while visiting my friend, Greg Smith, of Flowerwood Nursery, Mobile, I saw a man just wandering about. Being of a curious nature, I asked what he was doing. Greg said, "He is our peeper." As I looked blank, as usual, he continued, "He peeps at our grafts for beginning growth and takes care of them." "Oh", I said, "In other words, be babysits for your grafts until they are strong enough to care for themselves."

Many articles have been written on grafting. I admit to some of them. Many different methods—some use saliva on scions; others hormodin; others captan (for fungus) and so on. On understick and scion union some use sand, some manure, some grafting compound, some asphaltum, and on and on. I have tried many of these

and don't think they are of much help. Some are actually harmful. We now use (I now change to we as my wife does the grafting) nothing except a little sand to help seal the glass clotch. We do rinse the glass with water just before covering the graft to add a little humidity. Grafting is easy. I have seen some grafts take when the cambium layers were not even close, but I do advocate getting the two cambiums as close as possible, or better crossing the cambium layers. Now comes my part. The most important operation, in my opinion (not my wife's)—I am the peeper, whose job is to follow the grafts closely and when new growth begins, to air carefully. This is best done in late afternoon or night, and if wilting occurs next morning put the glass clotch back on and try again at a later date. Soon your graft will be able to take the air. Also inspect understock carefully for suckers. These should be removed early. All this takes very careful attention and is the most critical period in the life of your graft—next to preventing someone from breaking your graft by either foot or hand before union is firmly established.

The points I think most often overlooked are: (1) understock—select carefully. No graft will grow if understock dies; (2) be a good peeper—



this is most important; (3) we have found gibbed scions and scions from plants sprayed with Cygon are often unsatisfactory; (4) dieback has not been a problem with us as we use the greenhouse in which no other camellias are grown for our grafts. However, I did lose a sport many years ago from this disease on an outside graft. Unfortunately, I have never seen another sport like it.

If you don't mind, sign this an "old camellia nut". My wife and children all say I cannot write. I had an excellent medical secretary once who did encourage me. Later I found she did not know an ageratum from a nandina. This was probably the reason she approved my articles on camellias.

Signed: Old Camellia Nut.

## Attention!

Members of the South Carolina Camellia Society please send your 1973 Dues to:

P. D. Rush

Box 177

Lexington, South Carolina 29072

Members of the North Carolina Camellia Society please send your 1973 dues to:

Mr. J. K. Blanchard

Box 132

Wallace, North Carolina 28466

Members of the Virginia Camellia Society please send your 1973 dues to:

Mrs. E. M. Worrell

1341 Harmott Avenue

Norfolk, Virginia 23509

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CAMELLIA SASANQUA  
SEEDLINGS

2 year plants—\$12.00 per 100

FRESH CAMELLIA SASANQUA  
SEED

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Add \$1.00 per 100 on Seedlings  
for shipping—50¢ per 100 for  
seed.

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432-2902-home

# Meet Gene Kennerly



One of American Camellia Society's most enthusiastic young members, Gene is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Holly M. Kennerly of Springfield, S. C. and the grandson of Mrs. Addie Kennerly. He became manager of Cooper's Nursery after the death of Hubert Cooper in July 1971. Mrs. Pearle D. Cooper, owner of the nursery, says he is absolutely indispensable. The customers are amazed with his knowledge of camellias and all the other plants grown in the nursery. He had to assume all the responsibility of the grafting of camellias. Pearle cuts the scions and writes the tags which are permanently placed on the lerio containers. The rest is up to Gene until the plants are sold. He also is the plumber, taking care of all the water works, electrician and mechanic for the spraying and mowing equipment.

Gene began working at the nursery after school and during summer vacations when he was fourteen years old. He is now seventeen and will

graduate from Hunter-Kinard High School in June. He plans to enter Clemson University in the fall of 1973 working towards a degree in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscaping. He was chosen to represent his school at Boys' State this summer. Gene is truly an all American Young Man. His hobby, after nursery hours, is hunting and fishing.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

## Mid-Carolina Camellia Society Spring Show

The Mid-Carolina Camellia Club's annual Spring Camellia Show will be in Columbia, S. C. at the new American Bank & Trust building near the Carolina Football Stadium, now called Williams-Brice Stadium, on February 10th and 11th, 1973.

The American Bank & Trust is sponsoring the show. Mr. Richard Mims is President of the Mid-Carolina Club and entry cards may be obtained from him by writing to this address: 2337 Baxter St., Cayce, S. C.

Mrs. Pearle Cooper is show chairman—Mr. Geary M. Serpas, Co-chairman. Chairmen of Judges is Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Curlee of Orangeburg, S. C.

This is an ideal place for a camellia show because of the unlimited parking arrangements and excellent eating facilities within walking distance.

Remember our last Spring Show? This will be even better since there is not another show except Birmingham, Ala. on this date.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN  
**AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

1971 DUES \$7.50

JOINT HUSBAND-WIFE \$12.00

The American Camellia Society is a worldwide scientific, horticultural and hobby organization of more than 7,500 members in 40 states and 15 foreign countries. The Society was founded as a non-profit organization in October, 1945.

Among other benefits, membership entitles you to four issues of THE CAMELLIA JOURNAL issued in January, April, September and November. Each issue of 32 to 40 pages of interesting articles, news and photographs, has a four-color reproduction of a new variety on the cover.

Each December, members receive a handsome cloth bound Yearbook of some 300 pages, containing the latest information on both greenhouse and outdoor culture, breeding, disease control, history, arrangements, descriptions of gardens and other articles of interest. There are several full color plates of new varieties in addition to numerous photographs illustrating the articles. A roster of members is published in each Yearbook. All new varieties registered with the Society are described. Our 7 acre Camellia garden and headquarters building are open to visitors the year round.

The American Camellia Society will welcome you to its program of mutual pleasure and interest. For your convenience an application blank is printed below.

Annual Membership . . . . . \$7.50

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# Tar Heels Headed East for Annual Meeting of North Carolina Camellia Society

By GREM YATES

On Friday, November 10, members and directors from throughout the state began to appear by mid-afternoon with their car trunks filled with fine blooms and their back seats draped with topcoats and rainwear, neither of which was needed for a beautiful spring-like weekend!! Judges arrived from out-of-state and were greeted by the host, Marshall Richardson, representing the Washington Council of Garden Clubs.

Down east, when the sun drops behind the tobacco barns, the 'bacco barons begin getting restless, indicating it's time for festivities to start, so we all joined in!! An informal get-together set the mood for a delightful Dutch-dinner featuring Rose Bay Oysters as entree followed by the main course of "Court-jester" Carroll Moon served-up on a flaming skewer!

Saturday morning passed swiftly as blooms were entered and the Annual Director's Meeting was held. Presiding was President Fred Hahn. New officers and one replacement director from each of 3 districts were nominated and approved for election at the Annual Meeting. Nominated and subsequently elected were:

*President*, George Herndon

*President-Elect*, Marshall Rhyne

*Vice-President*, Ernest Aycock

*Sec'y-Treasurer*, J. K. Blanchard  
*Recording Sec'y*, Mrs. Fred Hahn,  
Jr.

*Historian*, Mrs. Carl Allen

*Honorary Life President*, Mrs. R. L.  
McMillan

Luncheon was a lovely buffet with some ninety persons in attendance, welcomed by the Mayor of Washington, The Hon. J. Max Roebuck. To those who have heard Mr. S. H. "Son" Hackney present a program, they've heard it all! To those who have not, don't ever miss the chance. Son was RIGHT that day! As we are all aware, Son has an unyielding devotion to the American Camellia Society. He is a constant contributor and an advocate of the importance of ACS to us all, whether member, grower, judge or patron. Son stressed the availability of services and information from headquarters at Fort Valley, Ga., mentioned briefly some of its fine facilities. A dedicated man in a dedicated effort to arouse us to a cause so important to us all.

The Annual Business Meeting was presided over by President Fred G. Hahn, Jr. Sixteen large bird feeders, made by the ladies of the Washington Council of Garden Clubs, were given as door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned to the

Masonic Temple for the opening of the show. There were many fine blooms and attendance was spectacular. Winning silver as Best Bloom over 4 1/2" and also Best Bloom in Show was 'PETER PAN', entered by Wells Cranford of Salisbury. Best

Bloom in Show over 4 1/2" was won by "yours truly" with a 'FRANCIE L.'

Truly a wonderful happening with fellow Camellians on a gorgeous autumn weekend midst the longleaf pines, savoring the genial hospitality of Eastern North Carolina!!!

## In Memoriam

Earnest F. Beale—Sept. 10, 1972

Steve Wall—Oct. 9, 1972

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# Questions on Camellia Dieback and Canker

By L. W. BAXTER, JR.

Professor of Plant Pathology, Department of Plant Pathology and  
Physiology, Clemson University  
Clemson, South Carolina 29631

Several questions keep occurring regarding twigblight, dieback, canker and graft failure in camellia culture. The following questions, which are often asked, are answered based on the latest research findings conducted at Clemson during the past five years. It is hoped that these answers may help individuals attempting to grow either greenhouse or out-of-doors camellias.

Q: What is the cause of dieback and canker of Camellia species?

A: A fungus, *Glomerella cingulata*.

Q: What is the difference between dieback and canker?

A: Dieback is a term applied to death of a branch. Typically, on susceptible varieties such as *Cleopatra* (*C. sasanqua*) a young, developing, lateral branch wilts and dies in the spring shortly after the flush of new growth. These very young lateral branches also typically will drop their leaves and only the young dead twig remains as evidence of primary dieback. The next phase will be either the formation of a canker on the stem at the base of the dead twig or death of the entire stem distal to the point of attachment of the dead twig, which is called secondary dieback. On young stems of very susceptible varieties such as 'Lady Vansittart' (*C. japonica*)

typically there is no noticeable canker, only sudden death of the stem distal to the dead twig shortly after the death of the twig. On larger stems, particularly of more resistant varieties such as Daydream or Setsugekka (*C. sasanqua*), a canker will develop. A canker is an area of localized (contrasted to systemic or widespread) dead tissue surrounded by living tissue which has continued to grow. As the living tissue continues to grow surrounding the dead tissue, the canker takes on a sunken appearance. Typically the canker is ellipsoidal in shape. Secondary dieback may or may not occur subsequent to canker formation. The length of time between the appearance of primary and secondary dieback symptoms is dependent upon the age of the stem and the resistance of the variety.

Q: It is easy to identify camellia plants affected by dieback and canker?

A: Affected plants are often easily identified when either dieback or cankers are present. The problem is in identifying very young infections, particularly on the semi-resistant to resistant varieties.

Q: What varieties are particularly sensitive to dieback and canker?

- A. The point should be stressed that only a very few cultivars have been adequately tested to give any reliable evaluation of their relative response to dieback and canker. Thus the following information represents results with only a few varieties of the many available.

Within the *C. sasanqua* cultivars, 'Hinode-Gumo', 'Narumi-Gata', 'Rosea', 'Cleopatra', 'Sparkling Burgundy', and 'Texas Star', of those which have been tested, are very sensitive. This is not to say that many other *C. sasanqua* cultivars are not sensitive.

Among the *C. japonica* cultivars, 'Tiffany', 'Ville de Nantes', 'Bessie McArthur', 'Betty Sheffield', 'Mathotiana', 'Elegans', 'Imura',

'Lady Vansittart', 'Vedrine', 'Donckelarii', and 'Tomorrow' are examples of extremely susceptible varieties.

Most *C. reticulata* cultivars and many camellia hybrids are extremely sensitive.

- Q: Are there any resistant or tolerant varieties of camellias?

- A: In the *C. sasanqua* group, 'Daydream', 'Apple Blossom', and 'Sct-sugekka' are resistant to the point that when inoculations are made on large stems (7mm or above) the cankers will regularly heal. Susceptible varieties such as 'Cleopatra' and 'Narumi-Gata' mostly fail to heal.

Within the *C. japonica* series, 'Governor Mouton', 'Professor Sar-

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gent', and 'Rose Emory' are quite resistant.

There are other varieties scattered among the various species and hybrids which can be infected and which heal poorly, if at all, such as 'Mine-No-Yuki' and 'Hiryu', which apparently escape infection.

Q: What species of the genus *Camellia* are affected by dieback and canker?

A: Not very many have been tested, although it is known that at least certain cultivars within the following species are susceptible: *Camellia japonica*, *Camellia sasanqua*, *Camellia reticulata*, *Camellia oleifera*, hybrids of *Camellia salvensis* x other *C. spp.*, *Ca-*

*mellia hiemalis*<sup>o</sup>, and *Camellia vernalis*<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>o</sup> Probably only variants of *C. sasanqua* but the chromosome number is different.

Q: What should one do when he finds a canker on a plant?

A: If at all possible, cut it out or destroy the plant.

Q: How does the fungus infect the camellia plant?

A: The fungus cannot enter non-wounded stem tissue and likewise it cannot enter mature camellia leaves therefore almost all infection occurs through natural or artificial wounds and the remainder through young succulent leaves.

There are several methods by which wounds are provided so

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that *Glomerella* spores can infect camellia tissue. *First*, when an old leaf falls in the spring, there is left a leaf scar, a natural wound, which is susceptible for a certain period of time. *Second*, wounds caused by insects, falling tree branches, hail, freezes, and insects are other "natural type" wounds which can provide a portal by which the fungus can enter. *Third*, pruning wounds resulting from shearing or heading back and wounds resulting when flowers, scions, or cuttings are removed, all afford potential places of entry. *Fourth*, grafting affords an ideal opportunity for fungal invasion of both scion and stock since the resultant graft is placed under highly humid conditions which favor the fungus. *Fifth*, when preparing cuttings, the lower leaves are generally stripped at the time of sticking. This provides several leaf scars on each cutting. Furthermore there is a fresh-cut end and the prepared cuttings are typically placed in a moist rooting medium which again favors the fungus. *Sixth*, wounds made by lawn mowers, cultivating implements, footballs kicked by boys, etc., all provide portals by which the fungus can enter.

Q: What part of the camellia plant is affected by the fungus responsible for dieback and canker?

A: This is a disease primarily of stem tissue, although occasionally young, succulent leaves are affected. Leaf petioles can be arti-

ficially inoculated as well as seed pods. Generally, only stems are affected, but all age stems are susceptible from current year's growth to stems which are several years old.

Q: Does this fungus cause diseases of any other plants?

A: Not so far as is known, although if it is inoculated into young, wounded leaves of *Magnolia grandiflora*, a large leaf spot will result.

Q: How does the fungus spread?

A: The fungus produces nonsexual spores ("seeds") by the millions on the surface of diseased tissue, such as cankers or leaf spots. Splashing raindrops then hit these spore masses and, with wind, the water droplets now laden with spores can be splashed for several feet outward, upward, or downward. If these water droplets come in contact with fresh camellia wounds, and if weather conditions permit, infection can result. By this means the pathogen spreads to other parts of the same plant or to nearby plants. Generally plants that are 25 to 30 feet apart rarely will become infected unless they already are infected but not showing symptoms.

Q: If I buy a diseased plant and bring it into my yard, will the disease spread to other plants?

A: The answer to this question is very complex. *First*, if you live along the coast of South Carolina (or any other state) where the humidity is usually high and the temperature is mild in winter, the

chances of spread of this disease from plant to plant are high. *Second*, if you purchase a very susceptible variety such as 'Ville de Nantes' or 'Tiffany' (*C. japonica*) sporulation of the fungus will be great and afford abundant inoculum. *Third*, if you plant the diseased plant near (within 10 feet) a healthy susceptible variety, the chance of spread to the healthy plant is good. *Fourth*, if you use overhead irrigation, or sprinkle with a hose so as to splash from plant to plant, the chance of spreading the pathogen is increased.

If on the other hand, you live in the Piedmont and you exercise caution in watering (use sod soakers, etc.) and you plant the newly acquired plant more than 20 feet from your healthy camellias, the chances are good that it will not spread.

In greenhouses, where the temperature and humidity are usually high, you should exercise extreme caution in watering. Something similar to a Chapin watering system is recommended.

Q: Is there any time of year when it is better to purchase plants so that dieback and canker can be avoided?

A: Infection usually occurs in the spring on last year's wood. Generally by fall (September or October) either cankers or dieback, if present, will be evident. Therefore the disease may be most easily detected in late fall or

winter. There is no method of selecting absolutely disease-free plants known at this time, however.

Q: How does the fungus survive from season to season?

A: The fungus typically survives in cankers (and possibly in a few leaves). Spores are produced on these cankers and are spread as described above to get the disease started the following spring.

Q: Can I cure camellias which are affected with dieback and canker?

A: Yes and no. If you are willing to remove surgically all of the discolored wood surrounding or within a canker you can reduce the incidence of this disease. This should be done in September or early October if the diseased wood is removed surgically; if the cankers are removed by cutting the plant back below the lowermost canker, then this should be done in late March to early April. After each of the above treatments, be sure to treat each wound with a strong captan solution (4 level tablespoons/gallon). The problem with this entire program is the difficulty experienced in detecting both the cankers and the new infections which have not yet developed into cankers. Any such eradication program must continue over a period of time. Of equal importance is the fact that the treated plants must be isolated for enough from other diseased plants to prevent reinfection.

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