

Carolina Camellias



'MASSEE LANE'

Massee Lane is a *C.* hybrid seedling of the *C.* hybrid 'Phyl Doak.' It was originated by Milo Rowell of Fresno, California and has been propagated by Wilkes Nursery and the Redwood Empire Nursery. The flower is a large red, anemone form which blooms in mid-season. The plant has a vigorous spreading growth.

Courtesy American Camellia Society



Carolina Camellias

Published three times annually — Winter, Spring, Fall — for the members of the South Carolina, North Carolina and the Virginia Camellia Societies.

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Editor's Page



It's mid-December and the trees are bare. The squirrel nests are clearly visible, all 18 of them. The jorees (tohees, if you prefer) come up out of the woods and scratch around under the azaleas and in the flower beds, looking for something that may have become hidden under the mulch. Old 'Lady Clare' on the south side of the house is sporting a couple dozen 5 to 6 inch blooms, and seems to say to anyone who passes, "Look, I don't need gib."

The new camellia season is in full swing, or will be soon, and gib has certainly done wonders, as usual. The 3 Fall shows that I have attended have all had fine blooms and plenty of them. I guess of the 3, I would have to give Charleston the "*numero uno*" vote. I saw some old favorites that looked as spectacular as any of the newest varieties. Annabelle and Lew Fetterman consistently exhibit (along with their new varieties) old, seldom seen varieties such as 'O.C. Cotton,' 'Horkan' and 'Can Can.' These blooms are often so lovely and eye-catching till you want to run home and graft them, or run over to Laurel Lake and buy them.

It is a sad situation, this business of the disappearing camellia nurseries. I don't know the number, but I have noticed with sorrow and apprehension that camellia nurseries in the East are disappearing, going out of business at an alarming rate. Though there may be others, I know of 2 nurseries in the East from which you can have plants shipped. There are also very few to my knowledge where plants may be purchased and picked up at the nursery. Of course, there are probably many small nurseries which do not advertize, the existence of which would not be known except to those close by. Someone told me in Gainesville that we camellia lovers are to blame for the trouble that is driving nurserymen out of business. He said that we swap scions and do our own grafting, instead of buying plants from nurseries. I cannot accept that explanation. I don't believe enough camellia lovers and collectors do any grafting to make any difference. I know that in my own club of about 80 members, not more than 8 do any grafting at all. These 8 that do some grafting buy about as many plants, if not more, than they suc-

cessfully graft. What then, is the answer? I don't know.

Have you ever considered why people go out of town to camellia shows? I could list several reasons. One is the most obvious: to show their fine blooms and perhaps take away an award. I know that is the only reason some people go. I am reminded of a camellia exhibitor who drove 60 miles to a show several years ago,

got there too late to get his blooms in, turned around and drove straight back home. Another reason is to meet old friends again, make new friends, and in general enjoy the fellowship. Still another, especially in respect to the ACS conventions: a good excuse to visit a new place and get to know it. Put all these together and it spells Charleston, S.C., in the Fall and California in the Spring of 81.

A Camellia Show Is



a "Hi, Baby" from Son Hackney

The greatest moment of a man's life is when opportunity and preparedness meet.

J.O. "Jack"

Presidents' Messages



SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

I would like to thank all the members of the South Carolina Camellia Society for the honor of being elected to the office of president. Please feel free to offer suggestions and advice as to how we can improve and expand our organization.

On behalf of "Carolina Camellias," I would like to thank Bill Robertson for the splendid job he rendered during his presidency.

Also, I would like to express our thanks to Tita and Charlie Heins for the outstanding job they did as editors of our magazine. We welcome James McCoy as our new editor and encourage everyone to give him their support.

Let's continue to promote camellias. One good way is to give gift subscriptions (which are \$5.00) in hopes of securing new members.

Details of the Spring meeting will be announced later. Make plans to attend. I hope that you are having a great season with many beautiful blooms.

Oliver Mizzell, President



NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

I would like to thank all of the members of the Society for the honor of being elected to the office of the president.

The Society would like to thank Dr. Ed Ryan, his family, Cdr. W.B. Whitehurst, and all the Greenville, North Carolina people who were hosts to the Fall Meeting and the Fall Camellia Show. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Aycock should also be commended for their work at the show.

The Society will have its Spring Meeting at Fayetteville, North Carolina, on Saturday, March 1, 1980. This will be the same weekend of the Fayetteville Show. The Fall Meeting will be in Wilmington, North Carolina, on Saturday, November 8, 1980. This will be the same day as the Wilmington Fall Camellia Show.

I am looking forward to the coming year and seeing you at the shows and meetings.

William W. Delaney, President



VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

We have enjoyed a very mild fall and early winter, the only frosts having been just enough to kill the tomato plants and summer flowers.

As this issue of "Carolina Camellias" arrives in your hands, it will be time to prepare for your air-layering which starts March 1. Charlie Mason suggests that you tag the branches before air-layering. Also, water your plants if they get dry and also just prior to a hard freeze. Our weather forecasters now are pretty accurate. Water, even though at 32 degrees, releases 144 b.t.u. per pound before it freezes and this heat keeps old Jack Frost from nipping away at your camellias. Do not overlook this important fact.

The VCS plant sales at the Men's Garden Club show at "Scope" in September, at the Pembroke Mall Charity Bazaar in October and at the VCS Fall Show (not sponsored by the ACS) in November were very gratifying. Plant sales chairman Frank Sutton deserves great credit for his fruitful efforts.

"Bud" Miller was all smiles as he won the "silver" for his "Best in Show," his "First Runner-Up," and his "Best White" in the fall show. This is especially noteworthy since it is the first time in all his years of exhibiting camellias that he has won more than ribbons. Mrs. Zelma Crockett took the "Second Runner-Up" prize.

Former VCS president Bill Redwood and Mrs. "Bud" Miller will co-chair our spring show on March 22, 23. Let us hope the weather man treats us right this winter, as he has so far.

John Walsh, President

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CAMELLIA SASANQUAS

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GAINSVILLE'S CAMELLIA CHRISTMAS TREE

At the Gainesville show, one of the principal features was a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. This tree fascinated all who saw it. There were many oohs and ahs. Many snapshots of it were taken. What made this tree unique and so eye-catching was the fact that it was decorated solely with waxed camellias. We have been unable to secure a good photo of the tree to show you, but detailed information on its construction was secured and here it is.

The tree was a 6-foot spruce. 95 waxed blooms were used as decorations. Five ladies, members of the Four Seasons Garden Club, worked on the project. It took them 6 hours to wax the blooms and it took 1 hour and 15 minutes to decorate the tree. They used 7½ pounds of parafin mixed with one pint of mineral oil in a Dutch oven. The parafin and oil were heated in a roasting pan with about an inch of water. The wax was heated to 134 degrees.

They cut the blooms fairly early in the morning, but made sure that they were free from drops of water. They waxed them as soon after picking as possible. They wired the blooms with florists' wire, leaving the ends long enough to attach to the Christmas tree later. They had a good-sized con-

tainer of ice water ready to dip the blooms in with another longer and flatter container of ice water ready also. When the temperature of the wax reached 134 degrees, they began waxing. They dipped the blooms in the wax at an oblique angle, rather than straight down, and twirled the bloom gently. This was to prevent the petals from bending under the weight of the wax, which would happen with a straight-down dipping.

Mrs. Jack Moore, of the Four Seasons Garden Club, explains as follows: Shake excess wax from blooms, then submerge in ice water with the same motion used in waxing. Keep submerged 30 seconds, then lay in second container of ice water for 30 minutes. Blooms do not have to be submerged in second container. After 30 minutes, remove and lay on a towel to dry. It takes about 45 minutes to heat the wax to 134 degrees, and you can wax 10-12 blooms before wax must be reheated. Repeat heating of wax as needed.

So now you know how to make a camellia Christmas tree. Wouldn't you like to try it next year? Anyone can go to K-Mart and buy tinsel and fragile ornaments, but —

— *Carolina Camellias*

— AND ONE FOR THE ROAD

At the Charleston show, there was not enough room inside the bank for all the exhibitors to prepare their blooms. A table was set up outside on the sidewalk as there was not much vehicular or foot traffic. Geary Serpas latched on to this table, got behind it, filled dozens of plastic cups with water and stood waiting — for someone to bring the blooms, I suppose. Along came a decrepit-looking senior citizen. He paused in front of the table and looked at the full plastic cups. Then he looked up at Geary and said, "I'll have a glass."



FOR THE BEGINNER

Regular Feature

If you have grown and enjoyed camellias in your yard for many years, this article is not for you. It is for the beginner, the person who has just bought, or contemplates buying, some camellias and wants to "do it right."

Homeowner, you are in for a wonderful experience. Contrary to what you may have heard, camellias are among the easiest of all shrubs to grow. They are not susceptible to many diseases and they have no insect enemies other than scale. A camellia's requirements are few, but like any plant, it will reward you with better blooms and will present a more attractive garden specimen if you will follow a regular schedule of spraying, fertilizing, mulching, watering, pruning, etc. But I know of no other woody plant more tolerant of neglect.

Initially, there are only two **absolute requirements**, one is for shallow planting and the other is no wet feet. We will discuss these two items later, as they are of extreme importance. First though, let us consider some of the basics.

When to plant: Anytime, if you are willing to go to a little more trouble with watering. The best times are early fall and early spring, in that order. Say September and March.

Where to plant: All camellias do better planted in semi-shade, like

under tall pine trees, but if you don't have tall pines, don't worry. Most camellias do well enough if they receive shade of any sort at least part of the day. Many may be planted and expected to prosper in full sun. A list of some popular, sun-hardy varieties is included at the end of this article. Do not plant camellias in a low area where the drainage is poor. They will not tolerate poor drainage — "wet feet."

How close together should they be planted: The ideal spacing would be much greater, but they will do well for decades with judicious pruning, spaced 6 feet apart. 5 feet apart should be the minimum.

What size hole: Most directions say twice the width of the root ball and about 18 inches deep. This is good advice, but not pertinent anymore. Almost all camellias are now container-grown. Try to dig a hole 3 times the diameter of the container by about 18 inches deep. This is a big hole, though, and you might be tempted to reduce the size. You would be wise not to reduce the size very much.

Fertilize the new plant or not? No, not at the time of planting and for 6 months or more afterward.

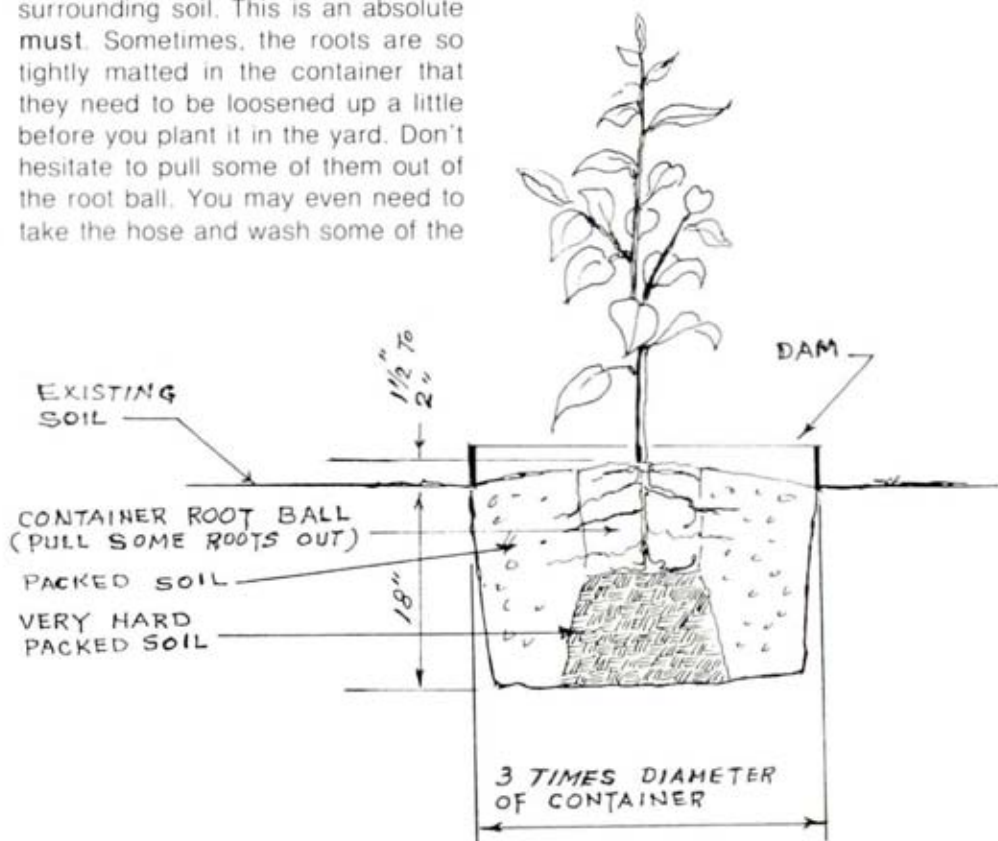
What kind of soil mix for filling around the plant: The soil you removed from the hole, mixed with an equal

amount of rotted leaves, peat, or compost.

How do you plant it: Here we must address this requirement for shallow planting. Partially fill the hole with soil mix. Pack the soil in the center of the hole (where the plant will sit) just as hard as you can. Take a brick and really pound the soil. If you wish, after the soil is thoroughly packed, place the brick in the bottom of the hole, tamp it thoroughly, and place the plant on top of the brick. The top of the brick or the top of the tamped earth must be of such elevation that the top of the root mass will result 1 1/2 inches to 2 inches higher than the surrounding soil. This is an absolute **must**. Sometimes, the roots are so tightly matted in the container that they need to be loosened up a little before you plant it in the yard. Don't hesitate to pull some of them out of the root ball. You may even need to take the hose and wash some of the

soil out of the root ball in order to loosen up the roots. Before you completely fill the hole with the soil mix, water it thoroughly. Really soak it! When the water has drained away, finish filling the hole with soil. Wet this new soil. Now figure out some way to keep the water from flowing away from the plant when you water it. Either construct a dam around it with soil or use some corrugated plastic or metal to construct a dam. Mulch with several inches of pine straw. Stake the plant and attach a permanent label.

Continued on page 26



PROPERLY PLANTED CAMELLIA
(MULCH & STAKE NOT SHOWN)

THE GENESIS OF A CAMELLIA

R/Adm. L.O. Wood, Ret., Norfolk, Virginia

The May 1979 edition of the *American Camellia Journal* listed amongst other new varieties number 1534, *Camellia sasanqua* 'Our Linda' registered by the author of this article.

We experienced our introduction to camellias in 1953. Moving into a new neighborhood, one of the residents brought us a box of these beautiful flowers, as a friendly gesture. This sparked some interest and later that fall we were able to make our first purchase, a pink one, red one and white one from a Minnix Nursery truck.

After retirement from active duty in the Navy, I worked for a couple of years at one of our local nurseries, gathering more information on plants in general and camellias in particular. Knowing that we would eventually build and live on a lot purchased some years before, we began to gather, and buy seeds to grow on for use as understock. As these seedlings flowered, single pinks and reds were used for grafting, but a few which produced better flowers were spared. Several of these were kept and we enjoyed the flowers in our yard. However, even with our modest knowledge and experience, we knew that one possessed real merit and several grafts and air layers were made.

We now move forward to October 1978. Visitors from New Zealand en route to the International Meeting in Fort Valley were arriving late that month as guests of the Virginia Camellia Society for a couple of days. A small reception was planned to be held at the Military Mall Sheraton which has been headquarters for our 10 judges for the past several year. But

1978 — dry, hot and windy, especially during the early fall — had not been conducive to the flowering of *Camellia japonicas*. A pity, guests arriving from several thousand miles distant and no flowers at the reception, and so for lack of something better we cut several flowers and sprays of our sasanqua and took them to the reception. The timing for introduction of this beautiful flower was perfect. In its first journey outside of our yard the viewing audience included the Parsons, Habels, Masons, Millers and Dot Urquhart. They were most enthusiastic as to its merit, and a short time later Dr. Habel took several of them to the aforementioned International Show, and even though cut on Tuesday, it took first prize for sasanquas the following Saturday.

With this auspicious beginning we obtained the necessary forms and had it registered and named as noted at the beginning of this article. Unfortunately, no suitable color slides were obtained until this (1979) year. These have now been submitted to our Executive Secretary of the American Camellia Society, and it is hoped to have them printed in one of the 1980 editions of the *American Camellia Journal*.

This is the genesis of one plant, and we humbly thank the bees, genes, and parentage combined by the Supreme Presence who guides all living things to produce this magnificent sasanqua, 'Our Linda!'

(Editor's Note: The originators will donate proceeds from the sale of scions or air layers to the *American Camellia Society* Endowment Fund. Number of air layers is limited and they cannot be shipped. Price of scions is \$10.00, air layers (2 to 3 ft.) \$15.00. Direct inquiries to Lester O. Wood, 1404 Carolyn Dr., Virginia Beach, Va. 23451.)

SAFEGUARDING ERYLDENE FOR POSTERITY

In an article published in the International Camellia Society *Journal* of October 1979, Mr. Eric Craig describes in some detail the campaign to save Erydene, the home of Professor E.G. Waterhouse.

Professor Waterhouse died in August, 1977 at the age of 96. He was the founder (if anyone could be called that) of the International Camellia Society. He was its first president and a great leader among camellia lovers. Mr. Tom Savige, actual president of ICS says, "... the Society remains in existence due to the patient persistence and forward vision of the "Prof." Professor Waterhouse was professor of German at Sydney University and was equally fluent in French and Italian. When he was in his eighties, he set out to learn the Japanese language, and succeeded to such a degree that he was able to assist in straightening out the nomenclature problems brought about when Japanese varieties were brought to English-speaking countries.

Erydene and his garden has for many years been a mecca for thousands of admirers both in Australia and among those camellia enthusiasts who visit Australia. Mr. Yoshiaki Andoh, Vice President of ICS, expressed it very well: "Although camellias originated in the East, there can be no doubt that Erydene has become the world's spiritual home of camellias — and of camellia people."

Camellia lovers throughout the world will be gratified to learn that appropriate steps have been taken to preserve Erydene. The Erydene Trust has recently been incorporated with the objective of organizing its acquisition as well as establishing an adequate Fund for maintaining its beauty, and safeguarding its quiet charm for posterity. Assistance to the objective has come from the Waterhouse family by its offering Erydene to the Trust at a figure considerably below its market value. An appeals committee has been appointed to raise an initial sum of \$200,000 (Australian).

The Trust's Governors announced that donations and subscriptions received prior to the launching had reached a total of \$75,000. International Camellia Society members and members of all National and Regional Camellia Societies are especially invited to become members of the Erydene Trust by taking action with respect to one of the following forms of membership:

1. FOUNDATION BENEFACTORS

A donation of \$5,000. Limited to 20 benefactors.

2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

(a) Husband and wife, \$250: being a donation of \$200 and membership subscription of \$50.

(b) Individuals \$200: being a donation of \$150 and membership subscription of \$50.

3. Ordinary Membership

Available from 1 January 1980 at the Joining Fee of \$20: being a donation of \$15 and annual membership of \$5.

4. Renewals: \$5 per annum.

Remittances appropriate to any of the foregoing forms of membership of The Erydene Trust should be addressed to:

The Treasurer of the Erydene Trust, P.O. Box 293
Gordon, NSW 2072, Australia.

— Carolina Camellias

SHOW RESULTS

MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

South Carolina State Fair, Columbia, S.C. October 26 & 27, 1979

Grown in Open:

Best Bloom over 5": 'Carter's Sunburst Var,' Albert V. Ewan

Runner Up: 'Helen Bower,' Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus

Best Bloom under 5": 'Miss Charleston Var,' Donna & Bill Shepherd

Runner Up: 'Rosea Superba,' Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus

Best White: 'Ivory Tower,' Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus

Sweepstakes, Gold: Mrs. H.C. Scott

Sweepstakes, Silver: Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

Grown Protected:

Best Bloom over 5": 'Rosea Superba Var,' Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Runner Up: 'Mathotiana Supreme Var,' C.T. Freeman

Best Bloom under 5": 'Campari,' Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Runner Up: 'Sawada's Dream,' Dr. Olin W. Owen

Best White: 'Snowman,' Mrs. J.C. Bickley

Best Miniature: 'Little Slam,' Jack Hendrix

Best Hybrid, Reticulata Parentage: 'Aztec,' Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

Best Hybrid, Non-Reticulata Parentage: 'Anticipation,' Jane Robertson

Best Seedling: Unnamed White originated by Jack Manderich, Menlo Park, Calif., and exhibited by S.H. Hackney. Japonica seedling. No certificate was voted.

Sweepstakes, Gold: Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Sweepstakes, Silver: Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

Outstanding Arrangement Certificates:

Tricolor, Mrs. Robert Lewis

Creativity, Mrs. Becky Beck

Court of Honor, Grown in the Open:

'Gus Menard,' Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus

'Donckelarii,' Martin Roberts

'Spring Sonnet,' Mrs. H.C. Scott

'Mathotiana Supreme,' Mrs. H.C. Scott

'Tiffany,' Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Grace

'Mary Agnes Patin,' Elliott P. Brogden

Court of Honor, Grown Protected:

'Jonathan,' Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

'Charlie Bettes,' Mr. & Mrs. Jack W. Teague

'Tom Knudsen Var,' S.H. Hackney

'Wilbur Foss,' Graem Yates

'Massee Lane Var,' Mrs. J.C. Bickley

'Rena Swick Var,' Graem Yates

Blooms Shown: 870

Show Chairman: Foster N. Bush

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Virginia Beach, Va. November 2 & 3, 1979

Best in Show: 'Mary Anne Houser,' Mr. & Mrs. Grover C. Miller

First Runner Up: 'Miss Charleston,' Mr. & Mrs. Grover C. Miller

Second Runner Up: 'Mary Agnes Patin,' Mrs. Malcolm K. Crockett, Sr.

Best White: 'Coronation,' Mr. & Mrs. Grover C. Miller

Court of Honor:

'Silver Ruffles,' Mr. & Mrs. Grover C. Miller

'Little Bit,' Mrs. Malcolm K. Crockett, Sr.

'Nuccio's Pearl,' Mr. & Mrs. C.C. Mason

'Masterpiece,' Mr. J.J. Cronin
'Lucky 13,' Mr. & Mrs. Grover C. Miller
'Debutante,' Mr. Lee E. Myers
'Sound of Music,' Mr. Robert Fitchett
'Imperator (France),' Mr. & Mrs. M.C. Stallings
'Fluted Orchid,' Mr. & Mrs. Grover C. Miller
'Donckelarii,' Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel

Blooms Shown: 209

Show Chairman: Lee E. Myers

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Greenville, N.C. November 3, 1979

Japonica, Large to Very Large: 'Chow's Han Ling,' Marshall Rhyne

Japonica, Medium: 'Campari,' Annabelle & Lew Fetterman

Best White: 'Gus Menard,' Kenneth Blanchard

Best Retic or Retic Hybrid: 'Lasca Beauty,' Clyde Dorrity

Best Hybrid without Retic Parentage: 'Anticipation,' Bill Grainger

Best Sasanqua: 'Fuji-No-Mini,' Curtis Godwin

Best Miniature incl. Smalls: 'Pink Smoke,' Kenneth Blanchard

Best Seedling: Kenneth Blanchard

Best Collection of 3, same variety: 'Marie Bracey,' Bill Grainger

Best Collection of 3, different varieties: Bill Watson

Blooms Shown: 201

COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Charleston, S.C. November 17 & 18, 1979

Grown in Open:

Best Bloom: 'Tiffany,' Mr. & Mrs. W.S. Howell

Runner Up: 'Feathery Touch,' Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Shepherd

Sweepstakes, Gold: Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Shepherd

Sweepstakes, Silver: Richardson Hanckel

Grown Protected:

Best Bloom: 'Premier Var.,' Marshall H. Rhyne

Runner Up: 'Mrs. R.L. Wheeler,' Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Fetterman

Sweepstakes, Gold: Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Fetterman

Sweepstakes, Silver: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague

Best Reticulata: 'Valentine Day,' Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Robertson

Runner Up: 'Francie L,' Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Fetterman

Best Seedling: Pursel Seedling #10, exhibited by Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush

Court of Honor, Grown in Open:

'Tomorrow, Var.,' Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

'Spring Sonnett,' Mrs. A.B. Rhodes

'Mississippi Beauty,' Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Shepherd

'Jessie Burgess,' Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Shepherd

'Mary Alice Cox,' Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Shepherd

'Miss Charleston, Var.,' Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Shepherd

Court of Honor, Grown Protected:

'Margaret Davis,' Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell

'Dr. Burnside,' Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague

'Carter's Sunburst,' Mr. & Mrs. Stanley G. Holtzclaw

'Tomorrow Park Hill,' Mr. & Mrs. G.M. Serpas

'Gus Menard,' Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell

'Elegans Supreme,' Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Fetterman

Blooms Shown: 800

Show Chairman: James D. Dickson



Luther Baxter



Susan Fagan

CAMELLIA FLOWER BUDS AFFECTED BY THE DIEBACK FUNGUS, *GLOMERELLA CINGULATA*¹

Luther W. Baxter, Jr. and Susan G. Fagan²

The disease, dieback and canker of camellia species, is well known and destructive in the southeastern United States. The well-known symptoms of this disease include the dying back usually of small twigs and shield-shaped sunken cankers on the larger stems. These cankers normally occur at the point where the dead twig joins the larger stem so that the twig arises in the center of the canker. Recently a third symptom of this same disease was brought to our attention.

Mr. G.H. Momeier, Jr. of North Augusta, S.C. brought several buds from greenhouse-grown *Camellia japonica* to the November meeting of the Augusta Camellia Society and wanted to know what was causing them to fall off and then what could be done about it. A microscopic examination of these buds (8 to 10 in number) in the laboratory revealed

the tell-tale signs of the camellia-dieback fungus actively fruiting (sporulating) on the basal end of all of the buds. These buds represented several varieties, all of which were grown in the greenhouse.

The fungus (*Glomerella cingulata*) was isolated from the buds and grown in the laboratory under alternating light and dark periods (12 hrs. each) on carrot juice agar at 22 C. The fungus began sporulating within 5 to 7 days. A microscopic examination of the fungal culture revealed it to be identical to the fungus found on the camellia buds and apparently identical to cultures of *G. cingulata* isolated previously from cankers on camellia stems. The fungus was then taken to the greenhouse where wound inoculations were made (November 19, 1979) onto seedlings of *Camellia sasanqua*, a plant known to be very sensitive to dieback and canker caused by this fungus (1).

On December 10, 1979 infection had occurred on all plants wound-inoculated with *Glomerella* isolated from the fallen camellia buds. Symptoms of infection were identical to

¹ Contribution No. 1755 of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. Published with approval of the Director.

² Professor and Ag. Science Asst. II, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631.

symptoms following wound inoculations with cultures obtained from camellia cankers.

Previous studies (2) had revealed that this fungus is regularly present in and can be readily isolated from apparently healthy vegetative buds of both *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua*. The fungus was identified in approximately 7% of the buds collected at random from field-grown camellias at Clemson in previous studies. Therefore it is not surprising to find *Glomerella* associated with flower buds on camellias grown in greenhouses.

Glomerella is a warm season pathogen and it could be spread during the summer and fall in greenhouses that are kept very moist due to frequent watering. The greenhouse from which these buds were obtained has sand on the soil surface which would aid in maintaining highly humid conditions.

This work does not suggest that infection by *Glomerella cingulata* is the only factor causing camellia flower bud drop, but it certainly represents one viable solution to the problem. This fungus has been found to be sensitive to the two fungicides, captan and benomyl (Benlate), both of which have been cleared for use on camellia and both have been used successfully on camellias (3). It is therefore suggested that, where this problem exists, particularly in greenhouses, these two fungicides should be applied as a mixture to camellias at 2-week intervals during July, August and September (during growth and development of the camellia flower buds). Captan is an excellent contact fungicide and benomyl is a good systemic fungicide which can eradicate newly developed

infections. Partial control could possibly be obtained by reducing the relative humidity inside the greenhouses by proper ventilation and by using a different watering system so that the foliage is not kept wet.

Many camellia cultivars are resistant to the dieback and canker phase of this disease (caused by *Glomerella cingulata*), such as Governor Mouton, Cho-Cho-San (4), Professor Charles S. Sargent and others, but it is not known whether or not these or other cultivars may be resistant to the bud drop phase. This is apparently the first report of this type of problem on camellias caused by *Glomerella*.

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AS JOE AUSTIN SEES THEM

Ed. Note: As most of you know, Joe and Mabel Austin used to grow camellias as good as, if not better than, anybody. Then they decided to retire and see the world. The camellia community missed them. Now, I am overjoyed to report that they have decided that they like Four Oaks better than the four corners of the world and would rather fight dieback and scale than porters and hotel desk clerks. They are back in the camellia scene. As to be expected, they have already accumulated a very fine collection of camellias. They seek out the best strains and best varieties. They give them the best of care. Joe's opinion of some that bloomed in November and December follows.

'Black Tie' (min.) — A good one.

'Sandy Sue' — I think the axe will get it.

'Pharaoh' — Hard to get the right bloom, mine just seems to be good 8-inch flowers.

'Howard Asper' — 10 plants, that speaks for itself.

'Lois Shinault' — Fine to hybridize with, that's all.

'Vernon Mayo, Va.' — The best-keeping bloom of all.

'Dr. Brian Doak' — Get it. You'll want it.

'Lasca Beauty' — Beautiful. Just doesn't hold.

'Pirate's Gold, Var.' — Real good.

'San Marino, Var.' — A beauty.

'Cameron Cooper' — Will be a good one.

'Glowing Embers' — A big red peony. Variegated and it will be better.

'Gladys Parks' — A good 'un!

'Mildred Pitkin' — Was in danger, but the bloom I have just had will

keep it.

'Patricia Coull' — Not worth a hoot.

'Terrell Weaver, Var.' — A beauty. Get!

'Miss Tulare' — This one has to do better or the saw will get it.

'Harold Paige' — This will be good with enough variegation.

'Mrs. D.W. Davis, Special' — The largest one this Fall, 8 1/4 inches.

'Mrs. D.W. Davis, Descanso' — One of the best if you get the right one.

'Wendy, Var.' — Good one for outside growers.

'Can Can' — Mabel doesn't like it. I do, so I will keep it.

'Ville De Nantes' — Still good as always.

'Elegans Supreme and Splendor' — 7 1/2 inch blooms with the right center. After buying many plants, I finally got a good one.

'Dorothy Hills' — Don't miss this one. Different.

'Jean Pursel' — Here to stay. As I write, am looking at one 7 inches wide by 4 inches deep. The highest flower I have ever had!

'Maui' — No good. Axe will get it.

'Charlie Bettes' — One of the top whites.

'Dr. Clifford Parks' — Blooms beautiful. I have 10 plants.

'Margaret Davis' — One of my favorites. Don't buy it unless it is in bloom, or you might not get the right edge.

'Mathotiana, Supreme' — Still one of the best with the right variegation.

'Betty Sheffield, Supreme' — A 6 1/2 inch, Betty is hard to beat.

'Valentine Day' — A good hybrid.

Why Include an Artistic Division in Your Show?

Marie W. Dahlen, Aiken, S.C.

The event, a camellia show.

The location, Savannah, Georgia.

The setting, a hotel ballroom arranged like a Japanese garden, complete with waterfall of camellias under a bridge. All female visitors pinned with a flower taken from boxes piled high in the lobby. Quite an introduction to this writer's first exposure to what eventually became part of her life's pleasures! In a separate room, almost overlooked, was a well-lighted arrangements division portraying the camellia in all its glory! This was so unexpected and, of course, we were sold, hook, line, and sinker, to the growing of this flower genus, *Camellia japonica*.

After seven years with no blooms appearing on our few outdoor plants, we built our first greenhouse. No one told us until quite a bit later that our plants were planted too low in the ground, and that we were located just at the borderline of the coastal protective belt for blooming in inclement weather. As our interest grew, we learned that "staging" is not all that important to the effectiveness of a camellia show. But we never again saw a show with the degree of setting as that first one!

Regretfully, in recent years, many camellia clubs have joined the growing ranks of clubs eliminating the Design Division. As an avid garden club and council member, I feel strongly that this is a mistake. I'd like to see it corrected. May I expound upon my reasons. Though I speak as a resident of a small community, this fact should lend credence to my argument.

There are few opportunities here for the arranger to display his or her talents because we are living in a small town, and without the annual camellia show outlet for this talent, there would be no real need to develop the art. A community is denying opportunity for creativity that is so important to the enrichment of all its citizens when it over-simplifies public events.

I admit that most arrangers do not grow their own camellias, at least, not in greenhouses. Those who might, do not normally take an active part in the local camellia club activities, nor assist in the show. The experienced arranger will normally withhold entering to give the novice an opportunity to practice the art, but is often enlisted when the deadline approaches and there are too few entries for this division to be filled. Specific demands by the arrangers for flowers "to play with" or specific colors long before the show date arrives create ill-will between the growers and these arty persons who don't understand that some varieties are unpredictable, and that "we don't care to strip our bushes while they're in full bloom." Camellia blossoms are awkward to handle by the novice and many a heart is broken to discover the note left by a judge that her blooms "were not fresh." It's very hard for the chairman of design divisions to convince arrangers that everything will all work out in the end when there are so many uncertainties. These are just a few of the trials and tribulations. It's enough to discourage even the bravest and the

most enthusiastic. Efficient and sufficient floor help in setting up a show is always a breath-holding uncertainty.

You readers who actively assist with the annual show in your locality know the frustrations, the last minute changes circumstances cause, the demands upon your time and energies, and the myriad of duties not understood by the newer helpers, involved in show presentations. Since many shows are sponsored by Men's Camellia Clubs, the ladies in local garden clubs and councils are vitally needed in these preparations, and help supply the manpower for putting on the show and supplying the "hospitality." An artistic division adds to their interest in a show. This can result in their future participation if they are made to feel a part of it from the beginning. Get the husbands of these women involved and your manpower problem is solved. Couples who share the camellia experience are generous with their time devoted to this hobby, and their excitement is renewed as each year's show approaches.

Garden club ladies who participate have the benefit of learning the show process, and many arrangers have their interest kindled into becoming growers. Anytime an effort involves women, you know there will be an audience for that event! Some of the novices in both the horticulture and artistic divisions become avid perpetuators of the camellia, and gain much pleasure in pursuing their new-found hobby.

Over the past several years, the design contest classes have become less commercially oriented and have now swung back to the more aesthetic forms being reflected throughout the world of art. This commercial orientation has probably

caused some of the disparagement in past shows. But take a look at the current schedule and note the changes. I think you'll like what's happening. The camellia is again dominant!

Arrangements beautifully displayed and lovingly executed are a real asset to a show and increase your attendance. How many of you have compared attendance statistics and exhibitors before and after eliminating the Artistic Design Division? Are you having trouble getting a work force? Are you hurting over this loss of able and experienced hands? How does your sponsor feel about this elimination? Have they been consulted or asked for an opinion? A drop in show attendance can sometimes result in the loss of a sponsor.

For those of you not presenting "standard shows," you may not even be aware of the National Arrangements Schedule issued each Spring in the *Camellia Journal* put out by the American Camellia Society. It's fun to be a winner, and top awards are pictured in the *American Camellia Yearbook*, with a membership in the society or material prize, a bonus for your efforts. Your town must have talent. National publicity is exciting and the competition is keen. We need to cultivate our novices in this art form. Think about it, discuss it, and enlist your garden club ladies to rejoin with your camellia club show next time. We who travel look eagerly toward viewing your efforts, oohing and ahing over new ideas and concepts that only competition can bring. We like to judge in new areas. There are so many wonderful people we'd love to get to know out there growing camellias, and we'd love to see your show. Let's share with one another!

With our mobile society, think of

Continued on page 25

COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY HOSTS FALL MEETING OF S.C.C.S.

The Colony House was the setting for the meeting of South Carolina Camellia Society held November 17, 1979, following a steak luncheon. Upon the departure of the judges, Ted Ullman, the host, introduced speaker J.D. Donahue, a journalist with the *News & Courier* in Charleston. Mr. Donahue presented a number of interesting facts pertaining to plants around the world listed in the Guinness Book of Records, remarking that there was no mention of the camellia.

Out-going president Bill Robertson welcomed members and offered some comments about his pleasure in serving S.C.C.S. It was confirmed that the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society will host the annual fall meeting of A.C.S. in 1980 in Charleston.

Elliott Brogden reported a balance of \$1,303.02 in the treasury. He stated that gift memberships would remain at \$5.00, but reminded us that dues have been elevated to \$7.50. President Robertson praised both Elliott and his wife Lawanda for their success in bringing the financial picture to a firmer base, and emphasized that all funds were channeled into society and publishing expenditures only.

The new editor for *Carolina Camellias* was introduced — Jim McCoy and his wife, Angie, from Fayetteville, N.C.

Paul Dahlen, along with the help of Tom Evans and Neal Cox, presented his slate of officers who were duly elected:

Oliver (Buck) Mizzell, President
Geary Serpas, 1st Vice President
Jack Teague, 2nd Vice President
Bernie Beier, 3rd Vice President

Buck's first duty was to present Bill Robertson with a handsome President's Plaque — a memento of his service to the society.

Next on the agenda was a call for the election of new directors for the odd districts: Ted Ullman, district I replacing M.F. Miller; Lonnie Timmerman, district II replacing Nollie Robinson, and Jack Hendrix, district V, same as before.

Editor Jim McCoy informed us that he is planning to make few changes in the format for the publication, and expressed his excitement over his new responsibility. He relayed a few favorable comments received from a couple of our subscribers around the world. Out-going editors Charles and Tita Heins were applauded for the well-done job done with the magazine since they had taken over its charge several years ago.

THE SPORTS-MINDED REPORTER

This young man reporter who was a fanatic on sports was asked to write the epitaph for an old maid who had died in the small town. Her name was Katie Jones. The next day he handed this in: "Here lie the bones of Katie Jones, whose life held many terrors. She was born a virgin and died a virgin. No hits, no runs, no errors."

J.O. "Jack"

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

1979 Fall Meeting

The annual fall meeting of the North Carolina Camellia Society was held at East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. November 3, 1979.

Lew Fetterman reported on a trip to New Zealand to attend the ICS Convention, and Annabelle presented a slide show of the trip. We were fascinated to see the *reticulatas* growing outside like *japonicas* grow here.

After this program, the treasurer presented a financial report. It revealed that the society has \$1,337.98 in a checking account after transferring \$709.86 from a savings account. The president recommended that dues be raised to \$7.50 or \$10.00 donation because of increase on costs of everything. This was ultimately voted into effect.

A recommendation of the board of directors that the decision relative to cancelling the fall show be left up to the president, also the date and place. This was approved by a vote of the attending members.

The new slate of officers was presented and approved. They are:

President	Bill Delaney
President Elect	Ed Liebers
Vice-President	Roger Martin
Secretary-Treasurer	Harris Newber
Historian	Catherine Allen
Recording Secretary	James McCoy
Directors:	

District #1	Bill Howell
District #2	Nelson Condit
District #3	Allen Kemp

Marshall Rhyne reported that Hulyn Smith, a dynamic camellia personality from Valdosta, Georgia would be presenting a program to the Charlotte club Monday, November 5, and invited everyone to come hear him.

The outgoing president turned the reins over to the new president who reported that the Spring meeting would be in Fayetteville in March in conjunction with Fayetteville's show.

An Invitation to Join

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

3904 DuBose Dr.

COLUMBIA, S. C. 29204

GIFT MEMBERSHIP — \$5.00

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — \$7.50

LIFE MEMBERSHIP — \$75.00

PATRONS — \$15.00

CAMELLIAS — A DECADE OF WORK, 1969-1979

An update of data on hybridizing and seedling culture

Barbara Butler, Modesto, California

I believe the selection of the seed parent and of the pollen parent is the most important factor of a good hybridizing program. One must evaluate his purpose for making a particular cross, taking into account the following factors:

1. Plant structure.
2. Leaf texture.
3. Leaf arrangement (the distance between the bud nodes).
4. Cold hardiness.
5. Fragrance.
6. Bloom structure (single, semi-double, etc., type of scales that encase the bloom).
7. Petal substance and arrangement.
8. Fertility of pollen and embryo and their compatibility.
9. Color, size.
10. The doubling of undesirable traits, recessive genes.

Over the years, camellias have become so inbred that the grandparents are unknown in most cases. Thus, hybridizers are making the same crosses without really creating new camellias. There have been no major color breaks. The "dogs" are flourishing. If I were just starting out, I would recommend that one go back to the basic species, such as the following:

1. Granthamiana
 2. Lutchuensis
 3. Saluenensis
 4. Wild form Reticulata
 5. Japonica
 6. Cleyeria
 7. C. Chrysantha
 8. Camellia bridges (rare crosses)
1. Granthamiana — Bloom interesting possibilities, large flower, beautiful foliage, grows well in ground.
 2. Lutchuensis — Fragrance, early bloom, small leaf, delicate flower and plant structure, good container plant, does well on own.
 3. Saluenensis — Good form and color, produces nice hybrids, such as 'Angel Wings,' 'Tulip Time,' good garden use, lots of blooms over a long blooming season.
 4. Wild form Reticulata — Strong growth, large flowers, different structure and types, color.
 5. Japonica — Good families — 'Kramer's Supreme,' 'Betty Sheffield Supreme,' 'Elegans,' 'Gwenneth Morey,' pick your favorite.
 6. Cleyeria — Unlimited area of development.
 7. C. Chrysantha — The most wanted Christmas present.

8. Camellia Bridges — Rare crosses, F1 generation of: Culter, Ackerman, Parks, Feathers, Pursel, Piet, and Hallstone.

I have purposely left out the sasanqua because I consider its faults to outweigh its merits. Sasanquas shatter, are not cold hardy. The root system is fibrous for quick growth and it grafts easily, but it lacks the extensive deep tap roots to sustain a camellia tree for old age in the United States. The good points are: early and prolific bloom, different flower forms, and its massive use as a landscape plant.

In 1950, I had only japonicas in my collection, as that was all the local nurseries carried. In the sixties, I borrowed reticulata blooms for pollen from the larger well-known bay area growers, and made crosses of japonica x reticulata camellias. I was told that was not the way to go, that it should be reticulata x japonica crosses. Thus, the addition of reticulata and reticulata hybrids to my collection. Now, twenty years later, the "big boys" are going japonica x reticulata to get plant structure and medium-size blooms that have general garden appeal. Perhaps I will luck out, as ten years later, my japonica x reticulata crosses are just beginning to bloom. Most of the flowers have been formal double, reds and pinks. Some are nice singles and semi-doubles, some are striped or spotted or have a crown form. There were lots of noble culls, with odd shapes and muddy colors. I just closed my eyes and gave them a grand send-off to the trashmen.

This month I was asked to give a talk to our Modesto Camellia Society and to show slides of my new seedlings. After ten years, an update of data seems logical. Details of my Hammer culture method may be found in the November 1970 issue of the *Camellia Review*. I am still using the same basic technique. In May, the seedlings are transplanted to out-door redwood boxes. These boxes are 3' x 4' x 1' in size, with ¼-inch heavy wire mesh bottoms. The boxes are placed in rows 18 inches apart. Each box is set upon nine bricks, one layer deep, to keep the roots of trees from invading the boxes. A two-inch layer of large firbark (egg size) is put in the bottom to cover the mesh. The box is then filled to within one inch of the top with a mix of firbark, bloodmeal and iron. This mix has been composted for six weeks prior to being put in the boxes. After ten years, the mix is very fine and light. Eighty seedlings were planted per box (I was told root-bound plants bloom sooner). Today these plants are five to six feet tall. Most have been made into standards, to ease the chore of cleaning, watering and fertilizing the seedlings.

These 240 seedlings are shaded by a muslin top cover over an 8-foot tall frame. The sides are open to the elements. The other 240 seedlings are shaded by my own hybrid Japanese maples.

My original purpose was to grow hardy garden variety camellias that might prove worthy of commercial use. I didn't expect to come up with the giant show-flower-type blooms, but to hopefully produce a better camellia plant that the ordinary gardener could use in basic landscaping. I have three such plants, and will probably cull two of these this next blooming season. Most of the seedlings have had flowers of medium to large size.

My work with fragrance, using 'Kramer's Supreme,' has produced interesting plants, but no blooms as yet. I have one of the early released

'Kramer's Supreme,' circa 1958. It is over six feet tall and three feet across. It has been moved twice, and pruned every year for large bouquets and entry blooms for most of the shows on our circuit. This plant sets seed quite easily, up to three or four seed per pod. This year I have four new seedlings from three different crosses.

I am still trying to produce fertile seed on 'Tulip Time.' Over fifty percent of the crosses produced empty embryos this year, and I could not get the remaining seed to germinate.

Because of weather conditions this past growing season, my *Luchuensis* camellia bloomed late, the same time as the Japonicas and *Reticulata* hybrids. The *Luchuensis* had a good seed set, but poor seed germination. Plants of 'Bob Hope' and 'Nioi Fubuki' also produced seed that were not fertile.

Granthamiana generally puts on quite a show around Thanksgiving, but this year it is just starting to bloom the second week of December.

I have noticed quite a similarity between the appearance of the outer bloom scales of the flower calyx of Granthamiana and 'Elegans Champagne,' and to a lesser extent on 'Elegans Splendor.' Perhaps, in some distant past, the 'Elegans' family made the acquaintance of Granthamiana. Perhaps, too, the thick gray calyx was a cover designed to protect the bloom in cold weather. The highly textured and veined leaf structure might also be a result of selective natural breeding to withstand the elements.

Work with yellow crosses has been slow as none of my yellow crosses has bloomed. My *Cleyera* plant died.

I am looking forward to seeing quite a few new seedlings bloom for the first time in 1980. If you haven't tried to hybridize camellias, give it a try. Who knows, your imagination just might produce that long-awaited super-seedling. But remember, it is just a hobby, nothing scientific. We are all amateurs. The fascinating thing is to watch and wait for a camellia seedling to bloom that has never existed before, a unique flower that you helped to create. As George Burns says in the movie, "Oh, God," "I should have taken longer than five days. I made the pit too big for the avocado."

CORRECTION

Carolina Camellias reported in an article in the Fall, 1979 issue that Mr. Frederic Heutte founded the Virginia Camellia Society. This is an error. Miss Mary Bell Glennon, a director of ACS, arranged a dinner meeting at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club on March 16, 1946. The Virginia Camellia Society was founded and officers elected that night. Mr. Huette was a respected and very active member of the Virginia Camellia Society, but Miss Glennon must be recognized as its founder.

My favorite bit of philosophy is this: If it isn't constructive, don't say it.

J.O. "Jack"

IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy

Since we're in the midst of grafting season, how about some comments on grafting.

What is the best month to graft? Mr. Les Marbury reported in the *Camellian* for November 1956 that he had made tests covering 9 years and 1400 grafts. Of the 3 principal grafting months, January, February, and March, January proved to be the best, but not by much. His percentage of takes were 80% for January, 79% for February and 75% for March. He winds up the article by saying, "Just take your choice, January, February or March."

Should you cross the cambium of the scion and stock by tilting the scion or should you try to match the cambium? Many successful grafters practice crossing and many practice matching. The late Mr. Carl Tourje recommends that the cambia be matched. In fact, he says, "The greater the contact between the growth tissues of the scion and the understock, the more rapid the growth of the graft. It is, therefore, important that the scion be cut as long as is possible, and as much of the scion utilized as there is to be had."

Should you clip the leaf or leaves of the scion? Again quoting Mr. Tourje, "This is believed to be inadvisable for the reason that until the callusing process takes place, and the life of the rootstock imparted to the scion, the scion must be kept alive and active, and this is best done by keeping the leaf or leaves intact."

Can you improve grafting results by dipping or soaking scions and grafting tools in a fungicide solution? Yes, indeed. We don't always do this because it is another step, but we

should. I became convinced of this last year when I received a group of 7 very precious scions. I took all the precautions I could think of, including soaking the scions in a Captan solution, one tablespoon to a gallon of water. I had 100% takes, compared to my usual 60 to 80% takes. One other comment, do keep the stock on the dry side both before and after grafting.

One disaster which strikes container-grown camellias occasionally is heavy bud drop.* The buds just turn brown and drop off, sometimes almost all buds on a plant. I have not yet been able to find out the causes. All I can report is the suspected causes by some who have experienced this problem. The late Dr. Newton Smith lost most of the buds on almost all of his plants one year. He believed that he caused it by applying a fertilizer which was too high in phosphorus. Clyde Dorrity lost most buds on quite a few plants last year. He blames it on a heavy spraying of the plants in the greenhouse with Cygon. Buck Mizell told me that he blasted a great many of his buds (caused them to drop) by spraying with a mixture of fertilizer and Isotox. He believes that the two are not compatible. Too little light might cause bud drop also. I saw evidence of this in a Fayetteville greenhouse in November. A plant situated next to the outside wall of the greenhouse had plump, healthy-looking buds on the side away from the light. I have read that not watering enough will cause bud drop, and of course there's nothing like a hard freeze to cause almost immediate total bud drop, under certain conditions.

There seems to be a turning toward multiple grafts, high grafts and approach grafting in recent years. Gordon Howell from Lynchburg, Virginia, writes, " 'Jean Pursel' took on a very large plant of 'Laura Walker.' On this same plant 'Gus Menard,' 'Innovation,' and 'Brilliant Review' also took." Joe Austin also has many plants in his greenhouse with multiple grafts, mostly retics. I grafted 12 different varieties on one large 'Rosea Superba.' Only 3 took, 'W.R. Rish,' 'Charlene,' and 'Gee Homeyer.' Also have 'Terrell Weaver' and 'Miss Tulare' on the same stock and 'South Seas' and 'Debbie' on another.

It doesn't seem that originators of camellias are having them patented as they once did. The reason may be that it's turned out to be not worth the expense and trouble. It costs \$65.00 just to make the application for a patent, and the procedure for preparation and processing an application is so complex that the services of a patent attorney is almost mandatory. I doubt that this service would come cheap. The patent is granted for 17 years only, after which the cultivar would become part of the public domain. Also, I suspect, without any real knowledge on the subject, that infringement of patent rights would be too costly and bothersome to prosecute. Patent holders wouldn't go to the trouble.

*See article by Dr. Luther Baxter and Susan B. Fagin in this issue.

Why Include an Artistic Division — Continued from page 18

the promotional effect our shows have upon the northerner and mid-westerner traveling throughout the camellia belt. The look of utter delight and wonder appearing over their faces is reward enough for putting on a show. What the individual blooms don't do, the arrangements might incite these viewers of their first camellia show into wanting to grow and learn more about this Queen of Flowers, the CAMELLIA!

I rest my case.

A Camellia Show Is



finding a place for blooms.
(Herbert Racoff)

I had just finished making a talk on a subject that I knew very little about and was talking to a friend. Just behind me with his back to me someone said, "That was the worst speech I ever heard." The friend I was talking to said, "Jack, pay no attention to him. He's just repeating something he heard someone else say."

J.O. "Jack"

COLD HARDY CAMELLIAS IN SALISBURY

Raymond Jenkins, Salisbury, N.C.

The outside plants that did best for me last year in this order were: 'Bernice Boddy,' 'Margaret Radcliffe,' 'Kumasaka,' 'Magnoliaeflora,' 'Dr. Tinsley,' 'Rev. John Drayton,' 'Marjorie Magnificent,' 'Daikagura,' 'Pink Empress,' 'Angel's Blush,' and 'Sieur de Bienville' of which 'Florence Stratton' is a sport.

A year ago I planted a 'Seafoam' and a 'White Queen' outside. I am confident that the 'White Queen' will do well because it is a very late bloomer. Several years ago I saw a 'White Queen' in full bloom at Easter in the garden at Squirrel Inn at Summerville. 'Sawada's Dream' and 'Colonial Dame' are also late bloomers, and I intend to plant them outside when I have a couple of good plants that have outgrown their containers. This Fall, I planted a 'Frost Queen' outside. Dr. Ackerman thinks it will stand -10 degrees F.

In Salisbury, Wells Cranford has growing outside around forty large old varieties, which performed well in about half of our recent seasons. A few of the best performers as I recall are 'Pink Perfection,' 'Dr. Tinsley,' 'Brilliant,' 'Rose Hill Red,' 'Mrs. Bertha Harms,' 'Florence Stratton' and 'Lady Kay.'

Wells has two seedlings which, to my mind, are first rate for the greenhouse, and I am confident they will do well out of doors also. Around 12 years ago, he gave me one of them. I think it worthy of commercial propagation because the bloom is long-lasting and, as a corsage flower, the equal of 'Miss Charleston, Var,' which it resembles. When it was registered last spring as 'Wells Cranford,' I

learned that Wells had grafted a pink peony seedling on a 'Frizzle White.' Since 'Frizzle White' is a hardy variety, I think it might be a fine plant out of doors. The other seedling bears a superb shell pink flower, which does not shatter and is larger than 'Sawada's Dream.'

In good locations in two out of three recent seasons in Salisbury, 'Ville' and 'Lady Kay,' 'Elegans' and 'Betty Sheffield' have done well outside. I am inclined to doubt that 'Gulio Nuccio,' the 'Mathotianas,' 'Kramer's Supreme' and 'Tomorrow' would do equally well because in Salisbury and Greensboro most winters are a few degrees colder than in Charlotte and Rock Hill.

For the Beginner Continued from page 9

Now we have a well-planted camellia that will almost certainly thrive. We do have to water the soil around it every now and then, say once a week, for several months and sprinkle the foliage several times a day, if you can, for the first 2 or 3 weeks after planting.

Subsequent care of the plant will follow in a later issue of *Carolina Camellias*. These are some camellias that love full sun, or at least, seem to.

Lady Clare	Donckelarii
Lady Van Sittart	Daikagura
T.K. Variegated	Governor Mouton
Professor Sergeant	Kumasaka
Blood of China	Mrs. Charles Cobb
Spring Sonnett	Mrs. Freeman Weiss
Kramer's Supreme	Margaret Higdon

THE CAMELLIA COLLECTOR — HERO OR VILLAIN?

There is a relatively small group of camellia growers who could be called "collectors," since they're after the newest and biggest and rarest cultivars that come out. They will go to unbelievable lengths, short of illegality, to acquire the red-hot new number.

How does a new cultivar become a red-hot new number? Well, there are several things that could happen to a new introduction to propel it to that status among growers who have never seen it. One way is for it to win the ACS provisional commended seedling certificate in one or more shows. Another is to be fortunate enough to be developed by a particular hybridizer or introduced by a particular nurseryman. Some hybridizers are so respected for their integrity that camellia collectors scramble for their "children" even before they see the first bloom. The same can be said for some nurserymen who propagate new cultivars for sale. Some camellias wind up on some want lists just because the description contains the words "very large." Sometimes a bloom will be exhibited at a show which, through a combination of good culture, luck and gib, has attained a fantastic size and otherworldly beauty and refinement. A collector, or several of them, will see it and the ball starts rolling. Often, like a snowball, the further the ball rolls, the bigger it gets. Another way is simply a word spoken in its behalf by one of the several camellia authorities, either an authentic authority or one who is not necessarily authentic. I am reminded of a story told about a camellia convention in Savannah several years ago. One of the growers there, in a spirit of fun, asked

another if he had acquired that magnificent new camellia 'Flying Saucer.' There was no such camellia. Well, before the convention was over, almost everyone was trying to get a scion of 'Flying Saucer.' Mr. Ashby decided then that he had better name one of his seedlings 'Flying Saucer,' and he did.

The collector has been maligned both in print and by word of mouth for what some consider evils of showing fantastically large, intensely beautiful, near-perfect blooms to an unsuspecting public at shows. The Public (non-camellia-growers) are theorized to be so gullible that they will believe that they can buy the same variety, plant it by the front door and startle their neighbors with unreal flowers like those exhibited at the show. The accusation probably has some validity, but not much.

Collectors play several useful roles. To begin with, they evaluate the new camellias. Someone said to a collector-friend of mine, "I believe that you'd graft anything." He replied, "Well, somebody's got to weed them out."

Though the camellia occupies the attention of many trained professional plant geneticists, many of these untrained collectors practice hybridizing, some to an extensive degree. Their efforts in this area have added much to the apparently unlimited field of camellia development. Amateurs have succeeded in making the first cross of several camellia species.

To the collector is due much of the credit for the continued existence of the camellia show. It is principally they who plan them, stage them, and through them, bally-hoo the camellia.

Long live the collector!

—Carolyn Camellias

LOOK FOR PICOTEES — WE NEED 'EM!

Charles L. Keeton, Long Beach, Miss.

Anyone who grows camellias already grows varieties which originated as mutants, and will readily admit that sports (mutations) add interest to our hobby. Few, however, understand that these mutants were put out by nature as a means of improving the breed. Not that every genetic change is an improvement, but each one does have potential for redirecting color, pattern, etc., even size, from the mother plant.

An old friend for many years made a specialty of "grafting flowers." Wherever he saw a bloom of better style, color, or in any way slightly better than the original, he grafted it. And, believe me, he had a great collection of show winners simply because he recognized each of these slight changes as the mutations they were. Sports need not be revolutionary changes as were the first few 'Betty Sheffield' mutants, but should be grafted and preserved. Each sport carries different genes (or arrangement of genes than its parents and the other blooms on the same plant).

As an example, I understand that the original 'Guilio Nuccio' on the West Coast had no rabbit ears and that some knowing judges (following the rules) do not give preference to those which have this added style. Some say that weather causes the rabbit ears. Others say that the cultivar itself is just highly variable in form. There is doubtless a bit of truth in this, but also I see the hand of nature adding those ears as a mutational improvement, possibly in a series of mutations.

As a mere hobbyist, I have no intention of getting into arguments with

geneticists. What interests me most is the great debt we owe to sports, and especially to those ultimate unique mutations, the so-called picotees — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme,' 'Betty Sheffield Blush Supreme,' 'Margaret Davis,' and 'Shuchuka' (an old Japanese sport almost unknown in the U.S.). Our new editor, James McCoy, tells me there is another in the 'Herme/Colonial Lady' family. And I suspect there are still others which have not been discovered.

That's why I started a campaign a year or so back to encourage all camellia people to start studying their camellia blooms more carefully in a united effort to find mutations, especially of the picotee type — a light color inside with a narrow edge of a darker color on each petal (from which the name is derived).

A Camellia Show Is



Telling it like it is

(Ken Blanchard and Bill Grainger)

Mutations, caused by changed genes in a few eyes or a branch of a plant, are frequently difficult to graft and sometimes revert after you have propagated them and have blooms, but they are worth seeking and working with at all levels of change, from only a slight variation from the normal all the way to the ultimate masterpiece picotees. I give them credit for a high percentage of past changes as well as our chance for more distinctive blooms in the future thru the efforts of nature and hybridizers. Doubtless there were many picotees that have since bloomed and disappeared undiscovered thru the cen-

turies, but from which bees carried pollen for change as nature planned it.

We all owe thanks to our hobby for the joy it has provided us, and one way we can repay our obligation is to keep studying signs of mutations in our blooms, always looking for new picotees! With so few currently existing (known to us, that is), it becomes vital to find more. I'm convinced that "Mother Nature knows best" and still produces this rarest type of camellia sport for us to find (primarily in the sporting families), and save for the generations of camellia lovers coming after us.

HAVE A QUESTION?

We have a camellia lover who wants to take the responsibility of finding the answer to any question or the solution to any problem relating to camellias and their culture. He says that he doesn't have all the answers, or even very many of them, but he knows the people who do. He says that he will write whatever letters that might be required to get any "camellia" information anyone might want. The name of this intrepid camelliaphile is Mr. Curtis Godwin. Address questions to him at: 120 Dundee Rd., Fayetteville, N.C. 28303.



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NEWS FROM BROWNIE

Milton H. Brown, Executive Secretary

Despite the cost of gasoline — there seems to be no shortage — we have seen some outstanding camellia shows this season so far. Show reports coming in all speak of the high quality of blooms, both those grown out-of-doors and in protected shelters. We feel certain that this will be the case all season.



1980 — THE YEAR OF THE CAMELLIA

The year of the camellia — 1980 — is off to a good start. We have been informed of an article in February *Southern Living* devoted to Massee Lane Headquarters of The American Camellia Society. This will be the year to really get behind our flower. Many of you can write interesting articles for your local newspapers and magazines. If you need any further information or want to borrow four-color separations to accompany such articles, we would be pleased to loan them to a printer.



ICS MEETING (JAPAN AND CHINA)

The People's Republic of China and Japan are on the tour for those interested. There might still be a vacancy for the "leg" to the PRC, and there are still vacancies for the Japan tour to coincide with the Kyoto Congress of The International Camellia Society. The Japan tour costs only \$2287 per person double occupancy; \$250 additional for single occupancy. The complete trip, to include 12 days in China and an additional four days in Tokyo costs \$3749 per person with double occupancy. Add \$250 for single in Japan. Single in China is based on the hotel and at the time — usually about \$18 to \$35 per day when available. If you are interested, call Brownie as soon as possible since the PRC is allowing only 14 in to visit Shanghai, Kunming and Beijing (Peking). Japan: March 18 to April 1. Both tours: March 2 to April 1.



We do wish that you all would come to your ACS Headquarters at Massee Lane for the BIG SHOW to honor The Year of the Camellia and ACS's thirty-fifth anniversary. The show will be November 8-9, 1980. It will be a forerunner to the ACS Convention to be held in Charleston, S.C. during 19-22 November. It is not too early to make your plans now.



Convention, 1980

Sara B. Clark, Charleston, S.C.

The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society will be in a state of expectancy all year until November 1980 when the group will host the American Camellia Society Convention in Charleston, South Carolina. It couldn't happen to a nicer group of folk in a more heavenly, earthly place. Charlestonians live close to the angels, and some of them are "near-angels" themselves, especially the "flower children," our camellia growers!

The present site of Charleston was settled in 1680 and by 1773, there was population of 12,000 people living in what was described as "the most eminent and by far the richest city in the Southern District of North America."

In 1783 the city was named Charleston and was incorporated. It was the capital city of South Carolina until 1789, when the State government was moved to the centrally located city of Columbia. Today Charleston is classified an "All-American City," with a population exceeding 360,000. It's a vast and sprawling city, but still has an aura of a small town.

Charleston is not unlike a camellia named for her: the 'Miss Charleston (variegated).' The petals start to unfold beginning with the Airport and there is a gradual undulation of petals (all variegated) until we reach the center which, of course, is the Oldetowne, where the houses stand that are from 250 to 300 years old.

Just to walk around Charleston's Oldetowne is a special treat and a



**St. Michael's Church Steeple
Charleston, S.C.**

passage back in time to a quiet and peaceful world. As a matter of fact, when you stroll past John Rutledge's house on Broad Street, you might find yourself stopped dead in your tracks with thoughts of Rutledge's presence. He led Charleston to secede from the union of the United States before the United States was officially formed!

In March, 1776, at Charlestown, the Provincial Congress met and established the first independent government. John Rutledge was named President, Henry Laurens, Vice President, and William Henry Drayton, the Chief Justice. It created

its own Army and Navy, elected a Privy Council and Assembly and issued paper money and coin.

Somehow, feeling the fiery presence of John Rutledge today, you know he never wanted Charleston to lose its individuality in an amorphous mass of the United States Government. In many ways Charleston has kept what he most wanted her to keep: whether through accident or consciously, Charleston stands alone like a grand old Southern dowager that shuns modern powder and paint and hi'falutin' ways. What was good enough for Rutledge, Pinckney,

Laurens, Drayton, Middleton, et al, is still good enough for her!

Those fortunate camellia growers who will attend the November 1980 Convention in Charleston, South Carolina should be looking forward to a soulful experience: in this grandly preserved and charmingly hospitable place, inhabited extensively with near-saintly, camellia-loving souls, they will not be disappointed!

In the interim, the Coastal Camellia Society busily prepares for the advent of the conventioners with plans for almost everything from flower-strewn carpets to oysters on the half-shell!



"Villz de Nantes"

Liz Carnell
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'MRS. B.W. DAVIS DESCANSO'

Mrs. B.W. Davis Descanso is a C. japonica sport of Mrs. A. Davis at Descanso Gardens, Torrance, California. The flower is a solitary form of 15-20 petals. The color is a light pink. The plant has a vigorous upright growth and a blue-green foliage.

W. Davis.' It was discovered by Mark Nuccio's Nurseries. The color is blush pink. The plant has a

Courtesy Descanso Gardens and Nuccio's Nurseries