

# Carolina Camellias



*DREAM BOAT*



*Cecil Sears presents the plaque to "Preacher Parsons while Mr. Vincent Thomas, mayor of Norfolk, looks on approvingly.*

## VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY HONORS PREACHER PARSONS

The Virginia Camellia Society held a special meeting October 19, 1982, honoring Preacher Parsons for his years of dedication to the Society and to Norfolk Botanical Gardens as well. It was a punch and cake affair, and about 50 members were present at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens auditorium.

The mayor of Norfolk, Mr. Vincent Thomas, spoke and presented to

Preacher a beautiful bronze plaque which the VCS had bought and had engraved. The plaque read: "A testimonial of sincere appreciation, presented to Allison J. "Preacher" parsons in honor and deep appreciation of the distinguished and unselfish service given while serving as a founder and past president with outstanding leadership, vision and ability."

---

### ABOUT THE COVER FLOWER

'Dream Boat' is a non-retic hybrid camellia from New Zealand. It was introduced in 1976 by Mr. Felix Jury. There have been reports that it is identical to 'Water Lily', another of Mr. Jury's introductions from the same parentage. They are very similar, both being bright pink with a lavender cast and of formal double form. The saluenensis blood (saluenensis x japonica 'K Sawada') gives them both a delicacy, a porcelain-doll perfection, a last-century airiness, a typical saluenensis hybrid appearance. Those who have grown them both do not accept that they are the same, as 'Dream Boat' almost always has incurved, cupped petals while 'Water Lily' does not. Photo by Yvonne Cave.

# Carolina Camellias

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

Published by the South Carolina Camellia Society, Inc.

**Editor:** James H. McCoy  
3531 Scottywood Dr., Fayetteville, N.C.  
Phone: (919) 867-3622

© Copyright, January 1980

## *In This Issue*

Editor's Page .....	2
Camellia Honors Lafayette .....	3
Get Rid of Dieback and Root Rot - Joe Austin .....	3
Presidents' Messages .....	4
State Officers .....	6
Frank Pursel on Hybridizing .....	7
How to Kill Camellias - Col. Edwin L. Atkins .....	9
A Salute to the Oldies - Gen. Harold R. Bauer .....	11
Exercise Caution when Applying Undiluted Cygon 2E to Camellia Stems - Dr. Luther W. Baxter, Jr.; Peggy A. Mitchell; and Susan G. Fagan .....	12
Show Results .....	14
For the Beginner .....	17
Go Ahead, Install that Irrigation System! - Bill Gardiner .....	19
The Best Day in Australia - Dr. David Scheibert .....	20
In and Around the Greenhouse .....	22
Variety or Cultivar .....	23
Camellias and Camaraderie - Bernice Gunn .....	24
Controversial Cygon - James H. McCoy .....	25
The Discriminating Birds of Scottywood Drive - James H. McCoy .....	27



## Editor's Page



While visiting a friend's greenhouse recently, he said: "Come over here and let me show you the prettiest camellia that you have ever seen." Of course I walked over, and he pointed to a medium size, formal double bloom which was almost all white. But in the center, it was bright red and it had some bright red touches on the tips of some of the outer petals. Truly it was a lovely bloom. It was a japonica. The strangest part of this story is the fact that the grower whose greenhouse I was visiting is as gung-ho over *reticulatas* as anyone you are liable to meet, and grows the loveliest (and largest) retics you are liable to see anywhere. He recently cut a bloom of 'Jean Purse!' that measured 9-inches in diameter.

If this grower will admit that the medium size japonica is "the prettiest camellia that you have ever seen," why is it that he and many of us are so mesmerized by the *reticulatas*? Why do we continue to buy scions and plants of *reticulatas*, spread pollen of *reticulatas*, show *reticulatas* in increasing numbers at our shows, talk *reticulatas*, dream *reticulatas*? Do you realize that of the last 100 camellias registered (Nos. 1758-1857), 38 were *reticulatas*, 38 japonica seedlings, and 24 were mutants or other hybrids. The 38 retics, with few exceptions, are the camellias we're buying, grafting and talking about.

"So, why not?" one might ask. Well, along the East Coast and the Gulf Coast, *reticulatas* cannot be satisfactorily grown except in greenhouses. And even there, are difficult to grow for most of us. They are so susceptible to dieback till you are constantly spraying with Benlate, painting the trunks with Benlate and drenching the soil with Benlate. There are some plantings of *reticulatas* outside, but the only good blooms from these unprotected plants are some gibbed blooms in the fall.

They cannot be used for arrangements in the house, they cannot be worn pinned on the shoulder or lapel as japonicas can, because they're just too big and fragile. They are even unsatisfactory as show blooms. They probably do more to turn non camellia growers against camellias than the least attractive japonica. I say this because two hours after a show opens, most of the retics are wilted and sad looking. The second day, all of them have flopped and should be thrown out, but of course, they're not! They're left there in their pitiful, droopy state to turn the repulsed public firmly back to planting roses!

So, what am I suggesting? That we quit trying to grow retics here in the East? No, indeed! I can't imagine the camellia scene without the retics! I'm one of those who are hooked on retics! I'm one of those

who would like to have one plant of each retic variety.

Maybe we could, as one camellia friend suggested, limit our camellia shows to one day only. I have no idea what the ramifications of this suggestion could be from the standpoint of our sponsors. Maybe we

could eliminate just the reticulata exhibits after the first day. Maybe there is another path we could take that would at least reduce the damage to the camellia image that the second-day-of-the-show reticulatas are doing.



## CAMELLIA HONORS LAFAYETTE

Fayetteville, NC is honoring, in April 1983, the Marquis de Lafayette, the French general for whom the city was named. This is Fayetteville's bi-centennial year. One of the highlights of these festivities will be the unveiling of an eight foot bronze statue of Lafayette in Cross Creek Park in downtown Fayetteville. This statue is the creation of Ferenc Varga of Del Ray Beach, Florida.

There will also be a mammoth banquet April 9 at Bordeaux Convention Center. Guests of honor at this banquet will be Count René de Chambrun, the great grandson of General Lafayette, and his wife.

The Fayetteville Camellia Club has persuaded Ken Blanchard of Wallace, NC to release his best seedling in his honor. Ken Blanchard's seedling will be named 'Marquis de Lafayette'.

'Marquis de Lafayette' is medium, rose red, anemone to semi-double and is an early bloomer. It blooms along with 'Debutante', but has produced blooms as early as September 10, without gib. It is a chance japonica seedling. About 80 percent of the blooms are anemone form and 20 percent, semi-double. Annabelle Fetterman wore a bloom of this variety on her sleeve during the banquet of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society last year and it held up well throughout the entire evening.

## GET RID OF DIEBACK AND ROOT ROT

Joe Austin, Four Oaks, NC

You won't have any more if you follow this program.

I put one teaspoon of Benlate into a half pint can of Clark's TreeKote and mix well. I use this on every cut I make during the season.

In March, when the sap starts up, I make a paste of Benlate and water. I use a one inch paint brush and paint the trunk up to the branches. I use this on young grafts after they take and the next two growing seasons.

Since I am a part time jackleg tobacco farmer, we use Ridomil on tobacco beds and in the fields. This is a must if you grow tobacco, to protect your tobacco from Blue Mould. Put one and one half ounce of Ridomil in five gallons of water and mix well. I then use my hose and put this out at 16 parts to one. If the plants are in the ground, I drench the soil to root level. If they are in pots, I apply it until it runs out. When you mix your soil, drench it with this mix of Ridomil. We use this twice the first year, then once a year thereafter. You can see a difference after the first year.

Ridomil is very expensive. Last year, I paid \$75.00 a gallon for it. You probably won't need but a pint for two or three years. See a tobacco farmer near you. He will be glad to sell you a pint.

# Presidents' Messages

## *SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY*



By the time this issue of "Carolina Camellias" reaches you, the camellis show season will have ended. But some of you may still be enjoying late blooms. After the long warm fall season, and pushing the plants for the "Show winner", our plants will need lots of special attention.

The spring meeting of the SCCS will be held in conjunction with the Mid Carolina Camellia Society's annual picnic. All of you have attended in the past will remember the good food and the good times we have had at these picnics in the past. We sincerely appreciate their kind invitation to join them again this year. Further information concerning this meeting will be forthcoming.

I would like at this time to urge each member to make it a personal goal this year to recruit at least one person to join our society. If we do this, we can be assured that our society will remain a viable organization.

Geary Serpas, President

## *NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY*



I'm sure that most of you are aware that we are at a critical junction in our society's existence. The problem simply stated is, "how meaningful and purposeful is our organization?" Maybe we have become complacent, who knows! There certainly are enough challenges for us to pursue.

For openers, let's look at the membership situation. With the greying of our group, it is imperative that we recruit young, quality people. The new blood, new ideas and enthusiasm will insure our society's future. It is not enough to depend on our camellia shows to obtain public recognition. We should take advantage of the local television station, newspapers, etc. on a year round promotion program.

We pay a lot of lip service to this in our individual clubs, but look at our track record. It leaves a lot to be desired. If we are serious about looking for a "Cause", this one is tailor made for us.

Since we have been associated with camellia clubs, we have never met more unselfish, dedicated and interesting people. We can do anything we put our minds to. Let's get on with it!

God bless you.

Roger Martin, President



## VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



December began like a tropical paradise with camellia blooms breaking out all over. The fickle finger of Virginia weather dropped several inches of snow on Tidewater, Virginia Sunday, December 12th with temperatures dropping to the low 30's and 20's. Blooms, though whipped by the north east winds, were still beautiful backed by a blanket of snow.

Now that Christmas is over and winter has us in its grip, many camellia enthusiasts sit around warm fires on the hearth, planning spring gardens, how to make room for new cultivars, and how to make it to the head table.

In retrospect, 1982 was a year of challenges and new responsibilities. We lost a close friend in "Charlie" Mason, who was the moving force of our air layer program.

Preacher Parsons resigned as chairman of show judges and dropped many activities due to health.

We gave up our charity bazaar for plant sales and placed our cultivars with local nurseries and sent 20 varieties to Washington, DC where they are now planted in the National Arboretum.

Held our first fall show in the city of Chesapeake, Virginia.

Continued to support new studies in camellia petal blight control at V.P.I. with Dr. Lambe.

Now we are inviting the American Camellia Society to hold its spring convention in Tidewater, Virginia, Subject to the acceptance and approval of the American Camellia Society Board of Directors. The year would be 1986.

In all, it has been an active year for our Virginia Camellia Society but no accomplishments would have occurred had it not been for the true dedication of many loyal and dedicated members.

May 1983 brings much joy and happiness to all of our Carolina neighbors and friends. We all look forward to spring with the same anticipation enjoyed by all plant and flower lovers.

Cecil E. Sears, President



*Camellia 'Marquis de Lafayette.'* See story, page 3.

# SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

Geary Serpas, <i>President</i> .....	104 Tyvola Dr., Summerton, SC 29483
Jack Teague, <i>1st Vice President</i> .....	7217 Teague Rd., Columbia, SC 29209
Mack McKinnon, <i>2nd Vice President</i> .....	Rt. 2, Box 108J, Lugoff, SC 29078
Bill Gardiner, <i>3rd Vice President</i> .....	Box 15, Ninety Six, SC 29666
Marie W. Dahlen, <i>Secretary</i> .....	703 Laurel Dr., Aiken, SC 29801
William C. Robertson, <i>Treasurer</i> .....	319 Deep Run Rd., Aiken, SC 29801
L.W. Baxter, <i>Ch. of Test Gardens</i> .....	Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631

## DIRECTORS

Ed. Y. Ulmer, <i>District I</i> .....	25 Sussex Rd., Charleston, SC 29407
Tyler Mizzell, <i>District II</i> .....	Rt. 1, Box 112, Elloree, SC 29047
Dr. William G. Roche, <i>District III</i> .....	3F The Villa, Greenwood, SC 29646
Stanley Holtzclaw, <i>District IV</i> .....	314 Morrow St., Greer, SC 29651
W.H. Rish, <i>District V</i> .....	Box 595, Winnsboro, SC 29180
J.B. Mayer, <i>District VI</i> .....	20 Mayer St., Georgetown, SC 29440

# NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

Roger Martin, <i>President</i> .....	605 Woodlane, Greensboro, NC 27410
Harris Newber, <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	Rt. 3, Box 57, Wilmington, NC 28403
James H. McCoy, <i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	3531 Scottywood Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28303
Catherine Allen, <i>Historian</i> .....	1812 Live Oak Pkwy., Wilmington, NC 28401

## DIRECTORS

<i>District 1</i>	<i>District 2</i>	<i>District 3</i>
Bill Howell	Nelson Condit	Allen Kemp
Harris Newber	James H. McCoy	Charles Monroe
Mrs. Marian Sweum	Fred Mayo	Graem Yates

# VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

Cecil F. Sears, <i>Acting President</i> .....	1355 Monterey Ave., Norfolk, Va. 23508
Melvin C. Stallings, <i>1st Vice Pres.</i> .....	633 Norcove Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23320
Douglas M. Simon, <i>2nd Vice President</i> .....	508 Fairfax Ave., Norfolk, VA 23507
Mrs. Lillian P. Miller, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> .....	4540 Shoshone Ct., Norfolk, Va. 23513

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. Frank M. Miles	John K. Walsh	Mrs. Edith Mason
Mrs. L. O. Wood	John G. Briggs	Melvin Stallings
Mrs. Martha Hefner	Paul T. Newland	Mrs. Lillian Miller
William F. Sutton	Cecil E. Sears	M.W. Christian

## EX-OFFICIO

A.H. Parsons	Dr. J.M. Habel	William C. Redwood
Mrs. Dorothy Urquhart		



## FRANK PURSEL ON HYBRIDIZING

Editor's note: On October 2, at Myrtle Beach, SC, Frank Pursel spoke to a meeting of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. His subject of course was **Hybridizing**. Here are some excerpts which should be of interest to anyone who looks at one of those lovely introductions of Frank's and says to himself, "I wonder if I could develop a camellia as lovely as that?"

This is my idea of what a hybridizer should do, and keep in mind, I'm talking about developing large size, heavy-textured-petal flowers. There are a couple of rules that I always follow. Number one: Always use the reticulata as the seed parent. In the camellia world, Mama is the dominant factor. No doubt about this. Number two: Use a japonica with a 45 chromosome count.

I know that the first thing you're going to say is, "I don't know what the chromosome count of this japonica is." We all know that in the camellia world, they're all in multiples of 15. So, normal japonicas have 30 chromosome count. Only about 2 or 3 percent have a 45 chromosome count. Look at 'Mrs. D.W. Davis' - large, heavy-textured petals, 'Drama Girl' - large heavy-textured petals, 'Coronation' - large heavy-textured petals. All of these have a 45 chromosome count. If you have a japonica that is larger than average with heavy-textured petals, chances are very good that it has a chromosome count of 45.

Now, when you put pollen from one of those japonicas on the retic, you have eliminated hundreds and hundreds of unnecessary seedlings. I have a very small yard, and when I do my hybridizing, I expect to get from every 10 seedlings about 4 which are worth looking at, and possibly one which is worth introducing. By doing it this way, you eliminate having to throw away hundreds and hundreds of self-pollinated seedlings of japonicas. Another thing, these first generation, or F-1, seedlings are now hybrids, half retic

and half japonica. When they bloom, don't be afraid to use them as a seed parent or as a pollen parent back on a retic. You can go either way. Here again, I want to remind you that I am talking about very large, heavy-textured flowers.

I think we ought to work toward other goals, for example, sheen. Luchuensis has a tendency to transmit sheen. I made this cross originally for scent. It was luchuensis pollen on 'Crimson Robe'. I got 12 seedlings. I took those 12 seedlings and grafted them, hoping we'd get some scent. It was a waste of time. I took the best one of that bunch, crossed it back to 'Crimson Robe'. So I wound up with a hybrid which was one fourth part luchuensis and three fourths part retic. The bloom was only about 4½ inches, but what a sheen! It would melt in your mouth. I'm using it for hybridizing. I think that if you start having classes for hybrids under 5 inches, you'll be amazed at some of the beautiful flowers you will see.

I'm using retic on 'Tinsie' now. You are not going for the big flowers. You'll get flowers about 3½ to 4 inches. Some will be similar to 'Tinsie'. I was trying to get that beautiful white center in a larger flower. I've got some indication of it, but I think it's several years away.

I think we need more picotees. There is a picotee flower, 'Tama-No-Ura'. It's one of the larger of the picotee flowers. Every bloom comes picotee, but it's single. I've made several hundred crosses with that one: on retics, on a plant that once threw a picotee, on anything I thought might get this picotee col-

oring. I'm just scratching the surface. We need people like you, because if everybody did this, someone's going to come up with a beautiful picotee flower.

I beg everybody here to get into it. It's fascinating! Where do I urge you to start? Well, you have to have a greenhouse in this area. You will have to have a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees when you do your hybridizing. If you can have these two factors, you're in business. The only other suggestion that I would make is that you pollenate a bloom 3 or 4 times in one day. Don't just do it once and say: "Well, that one's pregnant." Sometimes it isn't. You go back and hit it again, say 8:00 in the morning, 1:00 in the afternoon and 6:00 at night. Use pollen from the same flower each time. The chances of getting seed set are ten fold!

Now, for sprouting your seed — you don't even need a greenhouse. I use my basement. You can use your garage or even a spare bedroom. You can use any place where you can keep the temperature above freezing. Also, you must be able to provide lights over the seed beds. Two or three 60 watt light bulbs or Gro-Lux lights should be hung about 18 inches above the seed beds and left on 24 hours a day.

Go to your nurseryman and buy a rubber mat with heating wires in it. Get one about two feet by five feet. It has a thermostat. Set it no higher than 70 degrees. Get one of those plastic trays, take some Clorox, cut it with half water, and scrub the tray well. This will kill all the bacteria. Set it on the mat and fill it with perlite. One of these trays will hold 150 seed with no trouble. Get one of those little sticks to write what the cross is, press it into the perlite. Now take your seed and press it into the perlite. If you have

5 seed of the same cross, you will need only one stick. Do not cover the whole seed. Leave half of it showing.

Don't expect to get 100% germination. Some of the seed are not viable. These will start turning green. Get them out immediately if you see green starting to form around the edge of the seed. Your tap root will start growing right away. Now you've got to water. Use a sprinkler. You cannot over water. There's enough nourishment in the seed to keep the little seedling growing for six months, so don't worry about feeding them.

Now, when your seed germinates, you finally start getting some growth. Do not take the seedlings out of the perlite till you get three leaves. For some reason, if you pull them out with less, they just don't make it. I wouldn't take a chance. This is one advantage of perlite. You can take your seedlings out whenever you want to without disturbing those that you leave. They don't all germinate at the same time.

OK, now build a nice little box, 7 inches deep and the width of the heating pad. It can be about 36 inches long. Fill the box with growing mix. I use peat that I get from the river up near Stockton, CA. It's very rich. I use half that, one fourth fir bark,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and one fourth redwood soil conditioner. That's redwood sawdust with some nutrients added. I take some red pumice, crushed up, and I throw that in there. That's my mix. Don't water this mix. As you pull the little seedlings out of the perlite, take a pencil, make a hole and drop them in. Do not cover the seed. Leave them setting on top of the mix. If you cover them, you will risk getting rot. Here's where you will need a lot of those little stakes.

You'll be amazed at how fast



these little seedlings will grow with bottom heat. They really start jumping. I leave them in there till they get 6 or 7 inches high. They'll do that in 3 months. You'll also be surprised when you pull your seedlings out of this box that the roots are not all tangled up. Pot them up into gallon

cans. Use the same mix that you used for the box.

In answer to your question about soaking seed in Clorox, no, I don't do it. I have done it, and also have soaked the seed in gibberellic acid, filed the seed, etc. I don't do it anymore. I think it's a waste of time.

## HOW TO KILL CAMELLIAS

Col. Edwin L. Atkins, Shalimar, FL

Sometime ago while watching a funeral pass down the street, I noticed two funeral cars side by side followed by a man leading a very large dog. Behind him, single file for two city blocks, was a line of men. When I asked the man about the two cars, he told me in one was his wife and in the other was his mother-in-law. He then told me his dog had bitten them both and caused their death. I then asked, "How about borrowing your dog?" "Sure", he replied, "Get in line!" If anyone thinks he can kill camellias quicker than me, he will have to get in line.

I began growing camellias about 10 years ago. My wife, June, and I became "hooked" after three or four plants were given to us to plant in our yard following the construction of a new home. Following the blooming season the following spring, we became more interested, adding to our collection in the yard as well as several in containers. Through the years, we have had some 600 varieties of japonicas and reticulatas. We have narrowed this down to some 350 plus varieties. We select some new plants each year, and keep those whose names appear most frequently in the shows around the country. Through my systematic killing program, we have weeded out many of the older varieties and hard to grow kinds. Each year, I

graft 75 to 100, plus buying another 25 to 30 plants. This way, I always have ample stock on hand to keep up my killing program. I kill 25 to 30 each year in one way or another. The only difference between me and most of you is I don't mind admitting my mistakes. Some of you take out your dead plants in the middle of the night or slip off to the garbage dump, hoping no one will see you. There must be 100 ways to kill a camellia, and I'm sure that I know them all! But because of time, I will list and briefly discuss only a few of the more popular ways.

1. Over watering: Probably the most popular way. Potting mixtures are generally the cause. Most of us who grow plants in containers buy them from different places, and seldom, if ever, is the potting soil the same. Because of this, watering correctly becomes next to impossible. Some cans need water every day or two, while others in the same size can, can go 10 days or more depending on the type of soil in the cans. Too wet roots, as you all know, results in root rot. Best known way to prevent this is to standardize your mix. As soon after buying a new plant, if you plan to keep it in a can, repot it into your own mix. A loose mixture that drains well works best.

2. Over feeding: The second way to kill a camellia is to feed it twice



or three times as much as the bag recommends. Often we think that if a little is good, a lot will be better. This works for pain pills, or at least that's what the ad men would like us to believe. But not for camellias. I have found through the years that camellias really require very little feeding. On the Gulf Coast, where we have lots of sand, we like to begin in February through April with small amounts of 12-6-6 (with trace elements). We usually skip May and begin again in June with 0-6-8 or something similar when the bloom buds are beginning to form, and feed them for two months. Again in October, a small amount to bump the early gib blooms.

3. Over potting: Camellias do well and bloom better for me if they are a little root bound. We often make the mistake, when going to a larger size can, of selecting a size too large. Root and leaf systems are able to absorb only a certain amount of liquid each day, and this also depends upon weather conditions, such as heat and humidity. Adding too much soil, if watered as before, will eventually kill the plant. I try not to increase the size over 1 inch, sides and bottom, and I water very little so the new roots will go looking for water in the new soil.

4. Don't spray for scale or to prevent dieback: If you like yellow leaves, don't spray for scale and if you don't mind the leaves turning brown and the twigs and branches

dying slowly, don't worry about die-back. On the other hand, a weekly spraying of Benlate (1 tablespoon to a gallon of water) with the addition of a small amount of Cygon or Isotox during the early spring growing season will usually control both bugs and die-back. Some growers paint the lower trunks with a slurry (white wash) of Benlate.

5. Don't plant the camellias properly: If you would rather kill the camellia some other way, then make the hole large enough both in diameter and in depth. Six to twelve inches larger than the root ball is helpful. Be careful not to plant the ball lower than ground level. Fill the bottom of the hole with two inches of loose soil or bark, fill the sides with loose potting soil, tamp lightly, water and do not feed.

6. Keep the P/h low: A P/h of 4 or lower is a very good way to kill a camellia, almost as good as a 72 hour sunning of the roots! Although camellias are said to be acid-loving plants, I have found that a P/h of 6.5 to 7 will eliminate a lot of problems. Many will not agree, but if you ain't tried it, don't knock it.

There are several other good ways to kill a camellia. But the above list should keep your inventory of plants low enough so that every time a new bloom comes out that you just must have, you will have sufficient room to store them. Good luck, which ever direction you go.



---

We have had such poor results with late (spring) transplanting that we now prefer to wait until fall. Do not be afraid to purchase and move camellias as early as September; such a step will pay large dividends in thriftier plants.

*C. Norwood Hastie, Jr.  
Camellian, September 1961*



General Harold R. Bauer, Sumter, SC

We have over 200 camellia plants growing in our yard, many of which are the old varieties. Should it become necessary to reduce the number of plants to just a few, the decision to select those few would be very difficult. However, after much deep thought, my choice would have to be the Donckelarii family. Donckelarii was brought from China to Belgium in 1834 and introduced to the camellia world by Franz Von Siebold. Ville de Nantes, a mutant of Donckelarii came along in 1910 by Heurtin in Nantes, France being named for the city of Nantes. Later in 1949, Lady Kay, a mutant of Ville de Nantes, was introduced in Palo Alto, California. We have three plants of each of these varieties.

It seems that there are many others who agree with my choice. In going back through Milton Brown's recurring article "The Judges Have Spoken" in the ACS Yearbooks beginning with 1974 Vol 11 through 1981, his compilation of awards for these three varieties is as follows: Donckelarii 31, Lady Kay 38, and Ville de Nantes 119. This is quite a

record for approximately 70 show reports in each of the eight years.

Many seedlings of Donckelarii parentage have also been named and introduced to the camellia world. Of these we have plants of Donation, Black Lace, and Charlean, all of which have performed well for us. Black Lace, having Reticulata parentage, was planted in the yard a few years ago with some misgivings as to its ability to withstand the cold weather. It came through this past winter with flying colors, blooming very beautifully this spring. Our lowest temperature for the winter was 8°F.

If I had to restrict my choice to one "oldie" it would be Ville de Nantes for its dependability in giving beautiful blooms year after year, and for a shapely and easily maintained plant. The bloom has the stately elegance, beauty and class befitting a queen. This variety has endured for almost a hundred years and will be among the top for many more. I salute Ville de Nantes, the queen of the "oldies".

## EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN APPLYING UNDILUTED CYGON 2E TO CAMELLIA STEMS

Luther W. Baxter, Jr., Peggy A. Mitchell, and Susan G. Fagan

One of the major problems faced by camellia growers is tea scale. This pest attacks *Camellia japonica*, *C. sasanqua*, *C. reticulata*, *C. sinensis*, probably other *C.* species and *C.* hybrids. There are several practices recommended for the control of this insect such as spraying with oils, Cygon 2E, and various other materials.

Some camellia enthusiasts have adopted a technique using Cygon 2E (Fig. 1) that is applied in the concentrated form (right from the bottle) onto the lower 6 to 8 inches of the camellia trunk or trunks (if multiple stemmed) (Fig. 2). While this procedure is not a recommended practice, it is used rather extensively among Americans suffering from camelliitis. At Clemson University we have looked at this practice from a plant pathologist vantage point primarily because it has been suggested that camellias

treated with Cygon 2E do not graft very well. While we were unable to demonstrate this concept we have found some information which suggests that we may need to take necessary precautions when using it on camellias as described above.

In 1981 applications were made to several grafted camellia cultivars twice during the season (spring and fall). Subsequent grafts made with scions from the treated plants grafted well (30 successful grafts from 30 attempts using 6 scions from each of 5 cultivars). However, two of the older, treated grafted camellia plants (Cygon applied spring and fall 1981) began to yellow ('Wildwood' and 'Erin Farmer') in the fall. The camellia cultivar 'Erin Farmer' died the following year.

In 1982 Cygon 2E applications were begun in May and applied at 2-month intervals thereafter (May,



Figure 2. An ordinary paint brush used to apply the undiluted Cygon 2-E directly to the lower 6 to 8 inches of the camellia trunk. Use rubber gloves and an approved mask for safety.





Figure 1. Undiluted Cygon 2-E poured into a small galvanized pail for ease of application.

July, Sept.). By October a single plant of *C. japonica* cultivar 'Cho-Cho-San' was turning yellow (it had been one of the 12 *C. japonica* plants treated). By mid-December it was very yellow and many of the leaves were dropping. It is questionable whether or not this plant will survive. Single plants of the cultivars 'Paulette Goddard' and 'Rosehill Red' now show some distress symptoms but not nearly so vividly as 'Cho-Cho-San,' 'Erin Farmer,' or 'Wildwood.' Some cultivars such as 'Professor Sargent,' 'Betty Sheffield Supreme,' 'Flame,' 'Roosevelt Blues,' 'R. L. Wheeler,' and 'Dr. Tinsley' showed no apparent ill effects. These plants have made good growth and the plants have the typical healthy green color. Also, many of these plants are blooming (January 1983) due to the very mild winter.

While the number of plants treated by this system is small, there is good reason to exercise caution. However, it is admitted that three treatments per year is excessive and most likely would not be encountered in actual practice. Grafting stock, such as *C. sasanqua* or *C. oleifera*, may also be sensitive to this type of Cygon treatment. It is suggested that some camellia cultivars may be more susceptible to damage caused by the application of non-diluted Cygon 2E to the trunk than are other camellia cultivars.

More work is needed to find out the possible ill-effects of using undiluted Cygon 2E applied (by painting) directly to the lower 6 to 8 inches of the camellia trunk, especially when multiple applications are made yearly.

# SHOW RESULTS

## MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Columbia, SC October 23-24, 1982

### Grown in open:

- Best bloom over 5": 'Helen Bower', Donna & Bill Shepherd.
- Runner-up: 'Louise Hairston', William A. Gardner.
- Best bloom under 5": 'Campari', Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus, Jr.
- Runner-up: 'Betty Sheffield, Sup', Donna & Bill Shepherd.
- Best white bloom: 'Mary Alice Cox', Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus, Jr.
- Best novice bloom: 'Daikagura', Mrs. H.A. Wood.
- Sweepstakes: Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman.
- Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Dubus, Jr.

### Grown protected:

- Best bloom over 5": 'Carter's Sunburst Pink, Var', Annabelle & Lou Fetterman.
- Runner-up: 'Miss Charleston Var', Mrs. J.C. Bickley.
- Best bloom under 5": 'Harriet Bisbee', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell.
- Runner-up: 'Doris Ellis', Mr. & Mrs. M.S. McKinnon.
- Best white bloom: 'Ivory Tower', William C. Robertson.
- Best Miniature: 'Man Size', Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush.
- Sweepstakes: Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush.
- Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. Jack W. Teague.
- Best Reticulata hybrid: 'Massee Lane', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell.
- Best non-reticulata hybrid: 'Anticipation', Mr. & Mrs. Jack W. Teague.
- Best Seedling: H-66, japonica x reticulata, Marvin Jernigan.

Blooms shown: 750

Show Chairman: W. Howard Rish

## CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF THE POTOMAC VALLEY

Alexandria, VA October 27-28, 1982

### Grown in open:

- Best large to very large bloom: 'Rachel Tarcy', Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Abendroth.
- Runner-up: 'Pink Elephant, Var', Mr. & Mrs. Tom Evans.
- Best small to medium bloom: 'Kiku Toji', Joe Austin.
- Runner-up: 'Fran Homeyer', Henry Lunceford.

### Grown protected:

- Best large to very large bloom: 'Funny Face Betty', Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.
- Runner-up: 'Allie Habel' Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.
- Best small to medium bloom: 'Campari, White', Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Fetterman.
- Runner-up: 'Debutante', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.

### Miniatures:

- Best bloom: 'Fircone, Var', Dr. Dave Scheibert.
- Runner-up: 'Wilamina', Dr. Dave Scheibert.

Retics or Retic Hybrids:

Best bloom: 'Lasca Beauty', Mr. Joe Austin.

Runner-up: 'Miss Tulare', Mr. Joe Austin.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Mona Jury', Mr. Joe Austin.

Best other species bloom: 'Frost Princess', Dr. William Ackerman.

Fragrant Camellias:

Best: 'Frost Princess', Dr. William Ackerman.

Runner-up: 'Cinnamon Cindy', Dr. William Ackerman.

Best Seedling: Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.

Best White: 'Campari, White', Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Fetterman.

Sweepstakes: Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.

Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lunsford.

Court of Honor:

'Anticipation, Var', Mr. Ira E. Hefner.

'Dazzler', Mr. & Mrs. Wm. J. Sette.

'Anticipation', Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Maryott.

'Betty Sheffield, Pink', Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lunsford.

'Magic City', Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lunsford.

'Kickoff', Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Racoff.

'Ella Ward Parsons', Mr. & Mrs. Melvin C. Stallings.

'Betty Ridley', Mr. R.A. Sansing.

'Pink Perfection', Mr. W.L. Miller.

'Campari, White', Mr. R.A. Sansing.

Blooms shown: Approx. 300

Show Chairman: Dr. Arthur Maryott

## WEST CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Greenwood, SC October 30, 1982

Best Bloom in Show: 'Tiffany', Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush.

Best Japonica:

Protected: 'Tiffany', Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush.

Grown in Open: 'Carter's Sunburst, Var', Mrs. H.C. Scott.

Best Seedling: #NG-1, Mr. Graem Yates.

Best Reticulata: 'Lasca Beauty', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizell.

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Elsie Jury', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizell.

Best Miniature: 'Tootsie', M.S. McKinnon.

Best Sasanqua Bloom: 'Cotton Candy', Barbara Marcengill.

Best Collection of Three, Same Variety: 'Tiffany', Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.

Best Collection of Five, Different: C.T. Freeman.

Gold Certificate:

Protected: Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush.

Grown in Open: Mrs. J.A. Timmerman.

Silver Certificate:

Protected: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.

Grown in Open: Mrs. H.C. Scott.

Court of Honor:

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

'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mrs. H.C. Scott.

'Elizabeth LeBey', Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holtzclaw.

'Sue Ann Mouton', Mrs. H.C. Scott.

'Charlie Bettes', C.T. Freeman.



'Helen Bower Var.', M.S. McKinnan.  
'Tomorrow's Dawn', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizell.  
'Valentine Day', Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush.

Blooms Shown: 443

Show Chairman' Nollie Robinson, Jr.

## VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Norfolk, VA November 5-6, 1982

Best bloom over 4½ inches: 'Carter's Sunburst', R/Adm & Mrs. L.O. Wood.  
Runner-up: 'Miss Charleston, Var', Mr. & Mrs. B.E. Parker.  
Best bloom under 4½ inches: 'Campari', Grover C. Miller.  
Runner-up: 'Little Ginger', Grover C. Miller.  
Best White: 'Emmett Barnes', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel, Jr.  
Runner-up: 'No. 210 Heather Green', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel, Jr.  
Best Hybrid: 'Massee Lane', Grover C. Miller.  
Runner-up: 'Anticipation Var', Mr. & Mrs. Ira Hefner.  
Best Miniature: 'Ann Clayton', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel, Jr.  
Runner-up: 'Cinnamon Cindy', Mr. & Mrs. Ira Hefner.  
Best Virginia registered flower: 'Little Ginger', Grover C. Miller.  
Best seedling: Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel, Jr.

Blooms shown: 286

## COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Charleston, SC November 20-21, 1982

Best bloom grown in open: 'Tiffany', Mr. & Mrs. Bill Howell.  
Runner-up: 'Miss Charleston, Var', Donna & Bill Shepherd.  
Best Bloom protected: 'Pirate's Gold', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.  
Runner-up: 'Helen Bower', M.S. McKinnon.  
Best Reticulata: 'Massee Lane, Var', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizell.  
Runner-up: 'Hulyn Smith', Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.  
Best Seedling: Mr. & Mrs. S.H. Hackney.  
Sweepstakes: Grown in open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.  
Runner-up: Donna & Bill Shepherd.  
Sweepstakes, protected: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.  
Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Court of Honor, grown in open:

'Carter's Sunburst', Mrs. A.B. Rhodes.  
'Louise Hairston', Donald Robertson.  
'Show Time', Mr. & Mrs. M.S. Edwards.  
'Dixie Knight', Bill & Molly Howell.  
'Helen Bower', Donna & Bill Shepherd.  
'Ruffian', Donna & Bill Shepherd.

Court of Honor, protected:

'Lady Kay', Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush.  
'Fashionata', Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.  
'Seafoam', Mr. & Mrs. F.G. Hahn, Jr.  
'Tomorrow, Marbury's Lt. Pink', Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush.  
'Anticipation', Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.

Blooms shown: 801

Show Chairman: Charles Heins

## FOR THE BEGINNER

Regular Feature

Beginner, we have been covering propagation of camellias in recent issues, such as air layering, rooting and grafting. Perhaps we should cover again in condensed fashion, the basics of camellia culture. Anyway, here goes:

**SELECTING VARIETIES:** To find out what varieties do well in your town, visit a camellia garden when it's in bloom, ask someone in your town who grows camellias or check varieties shown at camellia shows from your area. Generally speaking, stay away from the formal doubles, the heavy peonys, and the whites. By the same rule, the semi-doubles and the loose peony forms which are pink or red are less likely to be damaged by the cold weather.

**WHERE TO PLANT:** In semi-shade, under tall pines, on the north side of the house, or some other place where they can be protected from early morning sun. Soil **must be** well drained.

**WHEN TO PLANT:** In late fall or early spring in that order. Of course they may be planted at any time of the year, but fall and spring are the best times.

**HOW TO PLANT:** Dig the hole at least twice the diameter of the root ball or container, and about twice as deep. To the soil you remove, add an equal part of rotted leaves or peat moss. A few handfuls of cottonseed meal may be added also. Mix well. Fill the hole about half full with this mix and pack very, very

well. You might even take a brick and pound the soil. Then place the plant in the hole so it will wind up a little high. In any event, do not plant it too deep. It will die if you do. Partially fill in with soil and water it well. When water has drained away, complete the planting job. Mulch with pine straw and stake if necessary. You should sprinkle foliage of newly planted camellias several times a day for a couple of weeks.

**FERTILIZER:** Camellias are light feeders so don't go overboard with the fertilizer. It would be hard, if not impossible, to hurt your camellias with cottonseed meal. So feed them with that any time you want to. Go very light on chemical fertilizer. Most growers fertilize established camellias only once a year in the spring, immediately after blooming. Just scatter it under the plant. There is no way to specify the amount of fertilizer to use. Use your common sense and don't overdo it. The same fertilizer that you use on your lawn seems to work well for camellias. That is, 8-8-8 from K-Mart or Rose's or wherever you can get it cheapest.

**WATERING:** An established camellia plant does not have to be watered. By that, I mean that it will not die, and it will bloom anyway. But I would be stupid if I did not admit that there are periods of draught when watering your camellias would be helpful. So play this by ear. If you think the camellias need

to be watered, then do it! Also, water them well while you're at it. Not just a squirt with the hose.

**MULCHING:** Keep a reasonably heavy mulch of pine straw around your camellias. Here again, I doubt that your camellias would care one way or the other, but your garden looks better (fewer weeds) and you've got to do something with all that pine straw. Right?

**FIGHTING INSECTS:** There are two kinds of scale which are common here, and which can be devastating: tea scale and peony scale. The former appears as a white fuzz on the underside of the leaves and a yellowing of the upper surfaces. The latter affects the trunk and the branches. It conceals itself in little bumps on the bark which can be scraped off with your fingernail. Both types of scale can be controlled with an oil spray like Florida Volck mixed at the rate of 3 tablespoons per gallon of water. Apply twice in the spring, about a month and a half or two months apart. Malathion is also effective mixed as manufacturer recommends, also used in the spring. Cygon, a systemic insecticide, is also very effective used as a spray. Mix it at the rate of one tablespoon per gallon of water and use it whenever scale is detected. Cover both sides of all leaves with any spray if possible. Cygon may be used also full strength right out of the bottle. To use it like this, you need to paint a ring around the trunk of the plant, close to the ground. The width of the ring is not critical. Do this in March when the spring flush of growth is taking place. This is very effective on small plants (up to 5 feet), less effective on larger plants. On larger plants, paint additional rings on the major branches close to the trunk. The only other insect which is worth mentioning is red spider. Red spider is more of a prob-

lem for greenhouse growers of camellias than for you who grow them outside. On a plant infested with red spider, the leaves appear dull, greyish-looking instead of green. To fight red spider, use Kelthane according to manufacturer's instructions.

**DISEASES:** You do not have to worry about plant diseases if your camellias are well established in the yard. Dieback may hit a few terminal branches, especially on 'Ville de Nantes', but don't worry. Just prune it out! You don't have to worry about root rot, just pity the poor container growers. Petal blight is rampant in our area of the country. So, whether you think that you have it or not, pick up **all** fallen blooms within a few days. Don't let them stay and rot on the ground or in the mulch. Also, you should be careful about bringing camellias into your yard in soil contaminated by petal blight spores. I don't know what to recommend here. The only fool proof way to escape bringing in petal blight is to bring in only bare rooted plants (a ridiculous suggestion) or to bare root all newly acquired camellias and dispose of the soil by placing it in a plastic bag and letting the city haul it to the dump.

**PRUNING:** Camellias don't have to be pruned, but you can have better looking plants if you shape them up a little with the pruning shears. Blooms theoretically will be better if you remove some of the unproductive inside branches. Also, prune off any branch touching the ground. You may prune whenever you please. Everyone recommends that you paint the pruning wounds with asphalt paint. It is not always done but if it's not, it would be like cutting one's finger and not bothering to apply mercurchrome.

So beginner, these are the basics of camellia culture. This doesn't seem hard does it?



## GO AHEAD, INSTALL THAT IRRIGATION SYSTEM!

Bill Gardner, Ninety Six, S.C.

Let me first give you a bit of good advice. Don't ever get into a conversation with Jim McCoy concerning a new idea! He will hound you unmercifully until you write an article about it for Carolina Camellias. It makes no difference that you have never written anything in your life before and you just managed by the skin of your teeth to pass English Composition about fifty years ago.

I was sitting in the sun at Myrtle Beach during the second annual Atlantic Coast Camellia Society meeting when I casually mentioned to him how easy and inexpensive it is to put in an irrigation system. He immediately asked me to furnish him an article on the subject. I protested mightily but it did no good. He only replied that he would be looking for the article.

The idea was so absurd till I promptly forgot about it, or at least, I tried to forget about it. He wouldn't let me! Each time I ran into him during last season's shows and meetings, he would not greet me in the usual manner. He would only say, "Bill, you owe me." So here goes!

For those of you who do not already have an irrigation system for your garden or greenhouse, take heart. There is available now, materials and equipment that is both inexpensive and easy to assemble. These materials are also very light in weight.

The piping and fittings are the PVC (polyvinyl-Chloride) plastics that can be cut with an ordinary hacksaw, and then simply glued together with a cement made for this purpose. If you need to turn right or left with the piping system, you cut the pipe and slip on an ell joint turned in the direction you need to go.

Before slipping on any fitting, the inside is coated with the cement and likewise the end of the pipe that the fitting slips on is coated. There is little waiting. It is set and a permanent bond is accomplished in minutes.

A system can be elaborate or very simple. It can be installed underground, laid on top of the ground under shrubbery, or suspended overhead. I saw one at a new restaurant the other day that was partially covered with gravel used as a mulch around the foundation plantings of the building. They had inserted small spray heads along the length of the pipe by drilling holes and then cementing them in. They had connected water to it by a small piece of hose from a faucet to a hose fitting on the end of the pipe. All that was necessary for them to do was to turn on the faucet and let it run until the ground was saturated.

Let me assure you that these materials are very durable and can be considered permanent building materials. In fact, a majority of modern plumbing, both domestic and commercial, is done using them.

There are numerous types of sprinkler heads or spray heads to choose from, so that you can fit them to most situations that you will be confronted with. Some are made of various kinds of metal and some are all plastic. But all are effective. A new concept in irrigation, known as "drip irrigation", is the simplest of all. You drill small holes at intervals in a pipe laid on top of the ground. Two advantages are gained with this system. First, the cost is nil and second, the loss of water by evaporation is practically eliminated. With sprinklers or 19

with sprays, a significant amount of water is lost by evaporation before it ever hits the ground.

If you are planning to put in a rather large system, it would be advisable to have an engineer or someone knowledgeable on the subject to size the pipe and lay out the

system for you. It will prevent water flow problems. For small systems, usually 3/4 inch pipe would be adequate.

I have used all the applications I have discussed in either my garden or my greenhouse. They all work.

## THE BEST DAY IN AUSTRALIA

Dr. David Scheibert, Nashville, TN

This was the first day for a group of seventeen Americans in Victoria, Australia. Wally, our bus driver, of Dutch origin with an Australian accent, led us east from Melbourne through the mist of a gray morning to the Dandenong Range.

An hour was used with our Australian hosts and hostess to walk through the misty mountain forest of William Ricketts Sanctuary. Here William Ricketts memorializes the Australian Aboriginal in clay while dreaming and working for the peaceful coexistence of the human race and preservation of nature. It gave us great pleasure to speak with Mr. Ricketts as he conducted us through his studio.

Four Km. farther along Mount Dandenong Road put us in the small mountain village of Olinda. Here we met Tom Atkinson and other hosts for a walk through the national rhododendron garden. Volunteers have created six Km. of trails with planting of many rhododendron and azalea species and hybrids, as well as many camellia cultivars. The camellias, early epiphytic and hybrid rhododendrons, magnolias, bulbs, and black swans put on a spectacular show with a backdrop of gray sky and the Dandenong Mountains.

Light fog settled in as we reached the Cuckoo, an excellent Bavarian-Swiss style restaurant. A bountiful

relaxed smorgasbord with accordion music and desserts, including pavlova, warmed us almost as much as the friendship we enjoyed with Hari Withers, Jan Garling, Len and Marj Hobbs, Tom and Pat Atkinson, John and Phyllis Hunt, Laurie Hadingham, and our fearless leader, Hulyñ Smith.

Little did we realize that the first part of this day would be surpassed, as we enjoyed satisfied stomachs and the rolling Dandenong foothills, dressed by spring flowers and orchards covered with pink and white blooms. The dreams I had of the Sebire orchard and garden were to be surpassed by reality when we reached the village of Wandin. A bank of twelve foot blooming camellias was on the left side of the drive as we walked to meet Edgar and Beryl Sebire and their granddaughter. Then, on rounding the garage, long rows of healthy, four foot reticulatas covered with blooms dazzled visual perception. 'San Marino' first stopped me in my tracks, and then a slow walk to the far end of this display was topped with 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. Only then did I see the rows of up to twelve foot reticulatas beckoning with a multitude of blooms such as none of us had ever seen. The absolute high point of the day was admiring and photographing a 10 foot symmetrical specimen of 'Wandin

Sebire', covered with about 300 six inch blooms, with over 1,000 buds yet to bloom. Have you ever considered living in a temperate climate where there is no dieback or petal blight, and no disbudding or need for gib? Step ladders gave a spectacular overview of both camellia plantings.

The prolific white blooms of the cherry orchard were noted as we moved to a shelter under which varied Pitardii and other seedlings and grafts caught the eye almost as much as a 7 inch 'Aztec' bloom. I understand that Pitardii hybrids will reach 5 to 6 inch size with gib. The large retics then lured me away as Mr. Sebire graciously conducted others through promising seedling plantings. Time passed rapidly and mist was forgotten as the beauty was savored and memories recorded on film. All too soon, appreciation and goodbyes were extended. Guess who was last on the bus! Fatigue was ignored in the excitement of all we had witnessed this day, which turned out to be the high point of our 23 day tour. The flowering beauty of spring was again en-

joyed as we wound through the Dandenong foothills and through the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

The evening beckoned as we settled into the cozy home of Bob and Hari Withers. They made us feel as if we truly were back home. Wine, a bountiful buffet, pavlova, and tables of camellias on exhibit, helped us to further cement warm bonds with our gracious new Melbourne and Victoria friends. In addition to our earlier hosts and hostesses, we made friends with Joan and David Lush, Erica and Neville McMinn, Dr. Jenkins, Ern Kettle, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Jessup and others.

This first day and evening in Australia was enjoyed to the fullest by our group: Hulyn Smith, Edna Francis, Nora Schmitt, Ola Dupree, May Lillie Ware, Buddy Cawthon, John Newsome, Tom Troutman, Annie Stewart Pearce, Flossie and Dick Goodson, and Shirley Jermin. Edith Massei and Pat and Dic Pozdol were yet to join us when we reached New Zealand. Sleep came easily that night aided by the warm glow of new friends and the beauty at the Sebires.

CAMELLIA JAPONICAS

CAMELLIA SASANQUAS

LAUREL LAKE GARDENS AND NURSERY, INC.

P.O. Drawer 9

Salemburg, N.C. 28385

Phone 919-525-5155

22 miles east of Fayetteville, N.C., 10 miles west of Clinton, N.C.

One mile east of Salemburg on Laurel Lake Road.



# IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy Fayetteville, NC

I'm sure that many of you have heard that the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide is rising significantly. Actually, between 1958 and 1982 it has risen from 314 ppm to 340 ppm, according to an article in the July 1982 issue of *New Scientist*, sent to me by Gene Snooks. This fact has caused quite a furor. There have been dire predictions that rising global temperature will melt icecaps, flood coastal areas, and disrupt agricultural patterns. Actually there is no certainty that the rise in temperature will be significant and even if it were, the results would probably be more beneficial than detrimental to agriculture (and camellia growing). The more carbon dioxide a plant takes up, the quicker it grows. There are myriads of other advantages of a higher concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. So quit worrying!

Is it for esthetic reasons that greenhouse growers of camellias paint the outside of white 5-gallon paint buckets before they use them for potting up camellias? Usually you see them spray painted black, green or brown. That may be part of the reason, but there seems to be other, more important reasons. I remember reading somewhere that an algae forms on the inside of white or clear pots, and that painting them black will eliminate this condition. Robert Fowler from Lumberton, NC, told me that he doesn't use white containers because he has observed that there are few if any roots close to the sides of a white container.

I have been convinced for some time that burying a potted camellia in sawdust would stimulate the development of roots, even on a ca-

mellia that appeared to be at the point of death. I still believe this, but recently I have reached the conclusion that it is not the "burying in sawdust" that performs this amazingly fast root growth, but the "burying" that does it. I believe now that you could stimulate root growth to an astounding degree solely by burying the container in the ground, in wood chips, grass clippings or even in sawdust. Whether it's the constant moist environment around the container or the relatively constant temperature or something else, I do not know. I do know from experience that this is true. In August, upon realizing that I was not going to be able to get all my potted camellias into the greenhouse, I started burying some of them in the ground outside the greenhouse. I chose only those that were not budded and were in plastic containers. I eventually buried more than 200 like this. On the 1st of November, I took up 4 of them to give to a friend and found that in this short period of less than 3 months, the roots were already growing out through the drainage holes.

I recently ran across an account by Mr. Morrie L. Sharp of Portland, Oregon of the terrible flood of the Columbia River in May 1948. He offered what I consider to be the best evidence yet of the ability of camellias to withstand adversity, and survive unhurt the vagaries of nature that would literally destroy almost all other vegetation. In the words of Mr. Sharp: "They (camellias) proved themselves tougher and more enduring than almost any other type of shrub, including lilacs, roses, and even privet and laurel hedges." What happened is

this: The flood waters completely covered many large plantings of camellias near the banks of the Columbia and Willamette rivers. In one planting of several hundred camellias, it was possible to go over the whole area in a rowboat and see the tops several feet below the surface of the water. Although these camellias were submerged for several weeks, when the flood waters subsided, the only damage was to the appearance of the plants. Leaves were heavily coated with sand and sediment. They bloomed well the following spring.

Most camellias respond favorably to good culture, and if you want to win at a show, you must feed your plants well, water them well, prune, disbud and do all the other things that you read about. But there's one cultivar, according to Ken Blanchard, that seems more likely to produce show winners under adversity. That cultivar is 'Tammia'. Ken said that he had a plant of 'Tammia' that was so sorry looking till he was tempted many times to throw it out. But almost every sorry looking bud on that sorry looking plant opened into a perfect show winning quality bloom, the flower that has the little pink tips on all the petals.

In 1960, Mr. John Sobeck, one of the pioneers in camellia hybridizing, published a small bulletin in which he described some of his techniques. His program to speed up blooming of his hand pollinated seedlings is worth passing on to you amateur hybridizers. How would you like to have an open bloom one year and three months after planting your seed! This is how Mr. Sobeck did it. Sprout your seed as soon as they mature. About two months later, when the little seedling has one or two sets of leaves, remove it from the sprouting medium. Cut the roots off about one inch **below** the still attached seed.

Trim the seedling into a scion, being careful not to disturb the seed. Graft it in the usual manner, using cleft graft or the bark graft system. Since the scion is so tender, pencil size understock would be better as there would be less danger of crushing the juvenile tissue. After the cloche is removed, place the little graft under 150-watt floodlights for seven hours every night for the next six months. Feed the little graft weekly during this period with a foliar spray of Miracle-Gro or Rapid-Gro mixed at the rate of one teaspoon per quart of water. Three months after planting the seed and five months after grafting, buds started to form for Mr. Sobeck. Discontinue the floodlights at this point or the buds will fall off. He had his first bloom one year and three months after planting his seed. It should be noted that he did not mention bottom heat. This could possibly have speeded up nature even more.

---

## VARIETY OR CULTIVAR

Apparently there is a good bit of confusion about the use of the words "cultivar" and "variety" in speaking of camellias. When do you use the word "cultivar" and when do you use the word "variety"? Do they mean the same thing or something different? Do I show my ignorance when I use the word "variety" instead of "cultivar"?

Quit worrying! They are both good words and they mean the same thing. You may use either one, and anyone who objects is showing **his** ignorance. "Variety" is only used and understood by English speaking people, whereas "cultivar" is the international word for the group of plants which English speaking people refer to when they use the word "variety".



# CAMELLIAS AND CAMARADERIE

Bernice Gunn, Whittier, CA

My career in "Camaraderie" began about 25 years ago. Camellias, to be honest, were secondary in my initial introduction into the Camellia hobby.

In the late '50's when my husband became interested in growing Camellias, I was very reluctant to join him. Finally after about a year of letting him go it alone, I decided to be a dutiful wife and joining him on his Camellia quest. Suddenly I was caught up in the mad rush of "Camellia Camaraderie," - painting tables at Descanso Gardens, shopping for trophies, selling raffle tickets, serving refreshments at meetings, putting up and taking down shows and many other jobs that helped you to become a familiar figure on the "Camellia Circuit."

I couldn't help but be initiated into the horticultural phase of Camelliain, as suddenly our small backyard was taken up with two lath houses, with space left over for a bird bath, a Rhododendron plant and a ping-pong table. I really wasn't with it until I learned how to graft and transplant. Realizing transplanting was less tricky than grafting, I decided to give it a go. I was furnished with a chisel, a mallet and a plant to cut out of the can. On my first try the chisel slipped as I gave it a mighty whack, and I cut the whole plant off at the roots. Not realizing that I hadn't cut off the yellow Camellia, I thought maybe I could put the top back into the can, and my husband wouldn't know the difference. Agonizing over my faux pas, I finally timidly admitted my horrible mistake and was duly forgiven. I did graduate from grafting class, and went on to all of the other phases of Camellia Culture.

After learning the basics, we got into the meat of the hobby — friend-

ships. Many of us that started out together still chuckle over little humorous things that happened in the past, such as the time Bill Goertz was chosen to lead us to San Diego in a heavy fog, because he had the heaviest car and was the best driver. He was pulled over by the Highway Patrol for holding up traffic. We all pulled over behind him and explained that he was our leader, so we were waved on. Those were the days we were proud to be seen with such Camellia Giants such as, Ralph Peer, Milo Rowell, Reg Ragland and many others.

We were in the hobby 15 years together, and when he died I was sorely tempted to give it up, I didn't, and now after 10 years I am more active than I've ever been. We have many Camellia Societies in our area (from San Diego to Santa Rosa), so along with the serious business of trying to be the big winner at the shows, there are many social get-togethers that bring a little levity into the hobby. These gatherings over the years have strengthened many local friendships that were started many years ago.

A trip to Australia and New Zealand in 1973, opened up new vistas of friendship. Joining the Australians, again on a "Camellia Trek" through Spain, France, Portugal and England, I learned that camellia hobbyists are the same world-wide, fantastic people.

I do go "home" to North Carolina many times. As a matter-of-fact, I have almost been ordered to get on the plane heading for Charlotte. There's always a hook in the Hackney's closet to hang my long-johns. This friendship with Son and Ann came from a chance meeting at the A.C.S. Convention in Pasadena in 1971.



I don't speak Portugese, Spanish, French or even sometimes understand the British, Australians, New Zealanders or Southerners. But I don't have to. I have learned that actions speak louder than words, and it all spells "Camellia Camaraderie."

---

Actually, nothing startling has come out about gib since those articles we wrote back in the 60s. The only thing different is that gib is harder to get.

*Dr. Herbert Racoff  
Talk to the Charlotte  
Camellia Society*

## CONTROVERSIAL CYGON

James H. McCoy, Fayetteville, N.C.

When Cygon, the trade name for dimethoate, hit the market a little more than 15 years ago, it was received with joy by camellia growers. Imagine a systemic insecticide! Goodbye, scale!

Well, we still have scale and I guess that we always will. But Cygon definitely is a good weapon with which to fight it. There are camellia growers who use no other insecticide, but there are others who will not use it at all. Let's look at some of its values and at some of its faults.

The directions on the bottle suggest a foliar spray twice in the early spring. They also recommend a soil drench, also in the spring. No mention is made of its use full strength to paint a ring around the trunks of **outside** plants. This last method is the one which we will discuss in most detail. We like this method because it is so easy and takes such little time. It is also very effective in controlling scale.

When Oscar Tinkle of Portland Oregon first brought this method to the attention of camellia growers in 1967, it seemed just too easy. Most growers continued spraying with oil spray, Malathion or some other insecticide. We did not. We immediately started using Cygon full strength as Mr. Tinkle described. We were pleased with results.

We found that one application in the early spring would protect a plant up to 5 feet tall for the whole year. Plants larger than this will not be fully protected, scale appearing by mid summer on the leaves of some branches. We use Emo-Nik to spot spray in these instances. Later we began painting rings around the major branches higher up on the larger plants in addition to the ring around the trunk near the base. This would protect most of the large plants completely. We also found that small seedlings in the seedling patch could be completely protected by just touching the trunk close to the ground with a pure Cygon saturated swab.

In the ACS journal for January 1970, Mr. Albert Laessle of Gainesville, FL wrote a most interesting and informative article on the use of "straight Cygon". He warned against the use of pure Cygon on the 'Tomorrow' family and also warned that pure Cygon did not protect 'C.M. Wilson' as well as it did other varieties. Our findings in regard to 'Tomorrow' family and 'Elegans' family exactly match those of Mr. Laessle.

We inadvertently applied pure Cygon in a ring around the base of a large, lush plant of 'Tomorrow's Dawn'. Within a few months it was dead. No other plant in the yard

was adversely affected. Our plants of 'Elegans', 'C.M. Wilson' and 'Shiro Chan' were poorly protected, full of scale by mid summer. In the case of 'C.M. Wilson', as reported by Mr. Laessle, he applied an additional treatment of pure Cygon in June. This time he painted at least one side of all branches up to pencil size with pure Cygon. He reported complete eradication of scale on these plants with no damage to the plants. This is very extreme treatment and I personally do not have the courage to try it. I prefer the touch up spray with Emonek or Malathion.

Some growers are alarmed at the appearance of the trunks where pure Cygon is applied. The painted area changes color and suggests damaged tissue, but if a cut is made into this area after a couple of months, the cambium is found to be green and healthy looking. One year after application, the treated areas cannot be identified by appearance. But there are some dangers connected with the use of Cygon.

R.D. Hicks, from Ozark AL, had a terrible experience which he blames on Cygon. He sprayed his large plants in the greenhouse with Cygon. He did not spray his new grafts. But many of them were close to plants which were sprayed. Within a short time more than 100 of his new grafts which were in the vicinity of sprayed plants died. He is completely convinced that Cygon spray drifted on them and killed them, because those that were not located close to sprayed plants were not damaged.

The late Clyde Dorrity had a very heavy bud drop on many of his plants in the greenhouse shortly after he sprayed them with Cygon. He had used a heavier concentration than recommended by the manufacturer, 1 tablespoon per

gallon of water. He blames this bud drop on Cygon.

Mr. Louis Midgette, superintendent of The Elizabethan Garden in Manteo, reports that he has used Cygon as a soil drench. This was in an attempt to help some people who had given up in their fight against scale, **NOT** in The Elizabethan Garden. He says that the plants defoliated heavily and had poor blooms for two years, but it eliminated the scale and now those people have a fine collection of good camellias. Suspicions have been expressed that material from plants which have been treated with Cygon should not be used for propagation purposes. Representative of the manufacturer has been contacted about this (See p. 18 of ACS Journal VOL 36, No. 3), but no definitive answer to the question was offered. The representative did admit that Cygon sometimes caused defoliation, especially when used during hot weather, and a scion or cutting without any leaves will not result in success. Who, I wonder, would use a scion or a cutting without any leaves! But a lot of evidence is available which would lead a camellia grower to shun scions from plants which had been treated with Cygon.

Gordon Howell, of Lynchburg, VA, says that this year he's going to use Cygon full strength in two applications a couple months apart. He says that he's going to use it on his container plants as well as those in the ground, and also on the 'Tomorrows'. It will be interesting to find out what results he gets, good or bad. Meanwhile, put Gordon on your prayer list!

So this is at least part of the "Cygon Story". Cygon remains for the writer the easiest, most satisfactory weapon with which to fight scale.

# THE DISCRIMINATING BIRDS OF SCOTTYWOOD DRIVE

James H. McCoy, Fayetteville, N.C.

When I was little and growing up on a farm in South Carolina, birds were everywhere. My grandmother loved them and taught us all to cherish them. The only ones that she didn't like were the blue jays. She said that they were too noisy, but I really think that she blamed them for picking fights with the mocking birds. It seemed to me that it was the mocking birds which were always picking fights. One of them would sail into a group of blue jays and send them squawking raucously, in all directions. But she tolerated even the blue jays and gave them her reluctant protection. My cousin and I found this out the day we climbed the tall sycamore tree in the back yard where a blue jay had built a nest. From the ground, almost 40 feet above us, we could see the mother bird's tail sticking out over the edge of the nest. I climbed silently up to the branch immediately under the nest and grabbed the bird by the tail. It must have scared her half to death. she squawked loud enough to be heard in the next county and fluttered so violently till she escaped, leaving me holding a handful of blue tail feathers. When my grandmother found out what we had done, I thought for a while there that she was going to send us out looking for peach tree switches. She didn't, but the lecture we got would have made a visit to the woodshed preferable. We never bothered a blue jay's nest again.

As I recall, the birds used to nest in the most unattractive places, sometimes in unpleasant places. The sparrows used to nest under the water tank, on the supporting members, about 30 feet from the

ground. The wrens often would build their nests under the house on top of the brick piers. A cat bird once built a nest on a high shelf in the wash house. The mocking birds liked the smilax vine that grew over the bay window. I can't remember a single bird nest in a dogwood tree, a japonica bush or any other flowering tree.

But the birds around my house in Fayetteville have more discriminating tastes.

In May I was on a short step ladder preparing to put an air layer on a branch of a large 'Lady Clare' camellia. I looked down right into a bird's nest. there were 4 brown speckled eggs in it. I wasn't sure at the time what bird's nest it was, but I found out shortly, that it was a cardinal. What good taste, I thought to myself. I watched this nest for several days, glancing up at it every time I would pass. I would see either her tail or her head. Then one day she disappeared and never returned. The 4 eggs are still in the nest.

Whether it's the same bird or not, I don't know, but a cardinal has built a nest in a bushy 'Mathotiana' on the other side of the house. It is close to the patio and I can see her everytime I sit out there drinking my coffee. At this writing there are three eggs. Another bird with good taste!

Several weeks ago, I was in the greenhouse and heard a noise above me. I thought that it was a squirrel on the roof, but in a few minutes a wren flew over my head. I looked on the ledge from which she seemed to have come, and there it was, a wren's nest in my greenhouse! It is still there. We have become quite friendly, she ignores 27



me and I pretend to ignore her.

My next door neighbor is a widow. The azaleas in front of her house had become too tall and bushy. She asked me if I could recommend someone who would trim them back for her. I of course volunteered to do it. I had barely started the job when a female joree fluttered out of one of the azalea bushes. I suspected that there was a nest there and sure enough, it was. It had 4 eggs in it. I stopped trimming the azaleas. I meant to tell the neighbor about the nest and persuade her to wait till the eggs hatched and the little birds left the nest. I procrastinated a little too long. Her son came to visit her one week-end and, to my horror, I saw that he had cut the azaleas back drastically. I feared for the joree family and well I should have. When I checked, the nest was gone. I really regretted this not only because I felt that it was

my fault, but it was the first joree nest that I had ever seen.

These are just a few examples of the discriminating taste of the birds of Scottywood Drive. There are many others I could mention. We have had robins build in the dogwood trees, mocking birds in the blaze rose trellis and even a family of little birds about the size of a wren that sleeps in a hanging basket of Boston fern on the back patio. Yes, we have blue jays too, and I tolerate them as my grandmother taught me. I have never been tempted to try to catch one by the tail either.

---

## CORRECTION

The date of the Virginia Camellia Society's spring show at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens has been changed to March 26-27, 1983.

## CAMELLIAS

### SASANQUA AND JAPONICA SEEDLINGS FOR SALE

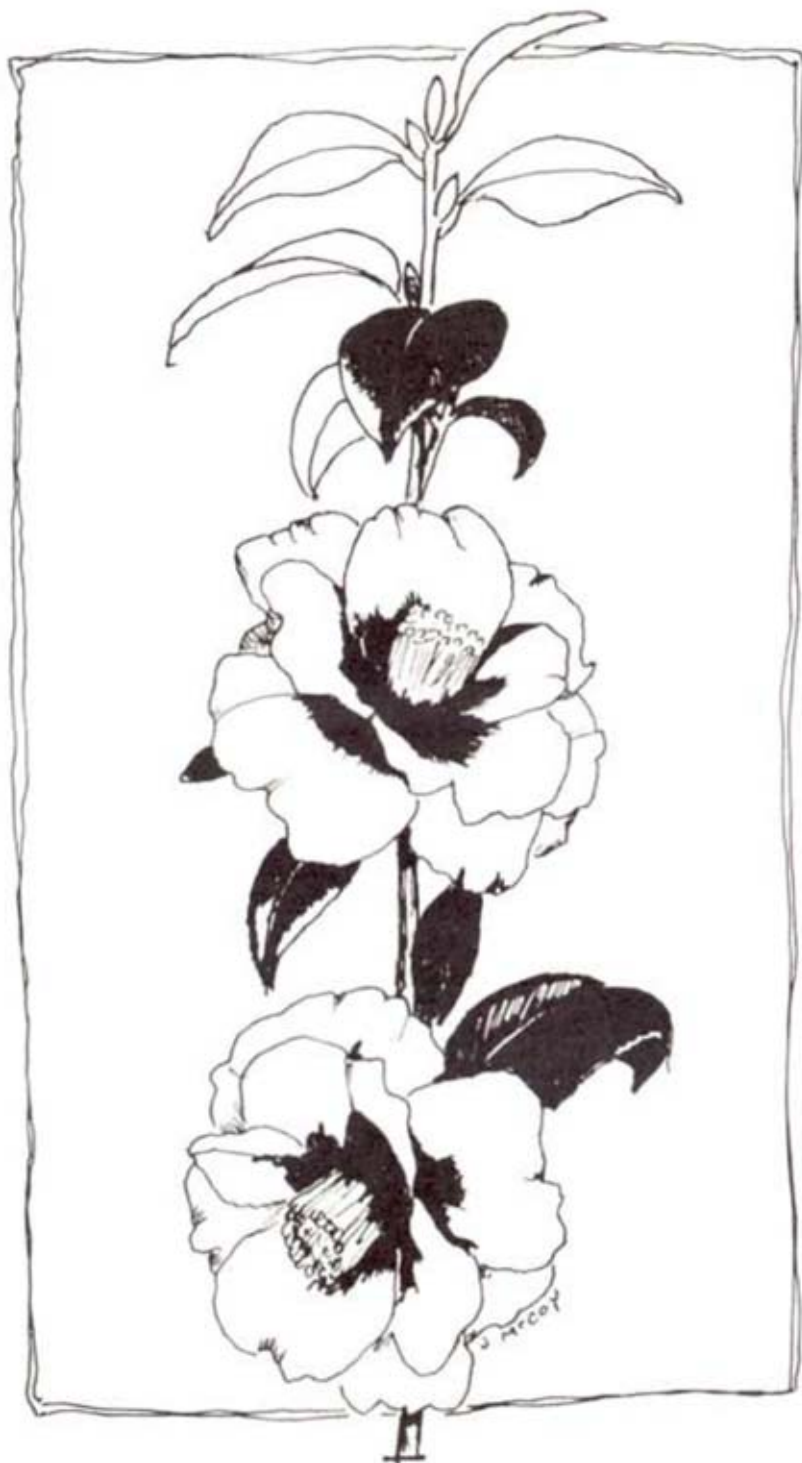
In 1-gallon containers, suitable for grafting stock

**\$1.50 EACH**

NAMED VARIETIES CAMELLIAS — \$2.00 EACH  
OTHER REGULAR NURSERY STOCK AVAILABLE

### LAKE LEVINSON NURSERY

Rt. 1, Box 38A, Four Oaks, NC 27524  
Phone: 919 934-4212 or 919 934-8553



IWANE - SHIBORI

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

William C. Robertson  
319 Deep Run Road  
Aiken, S.C. 29801  
Treasurer

BULK RATE  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Augusta, Ga.  
Permit No. 111

MR GEARY M SERPAS  
104 TYVOLA DR  
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483

## *An Invitation to Join*

### SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Send checks to Mr. William C. Robertson  
319 Deep Run Road, Aiken, S.C. 29801

GIFT MEMBERSHIP - \$5.00 (U.S.A. Only)  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$7.50

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$75.00  
PATRONS - \$15.00

Specialists  
in  
Quality Printing  
of:

*Brochures  
Pamphlets  
Booklets  
Menus  
Flyers  
Business Forms  
Social and Business  
Stationery*

420 King Street  
Charleston, S.C. 29403  
Phone 577-4811



Facilities  
for:

*Single and  
Multi-Colored  
Printing  
Layout  
Typesetting  
Binding*

Printing Since 1896

