

Carolina Camellias



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Carolina Camellias

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'DELORES HOPE' originated by Monique I. Peer, Hollywood, Calif.

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



NEAL COX

DEAR MEMBERS:

It is indeed most gratifying to know that so many of you have responded in an effort to bring in new members. Keep up the good work and let's make South Carolina Camellia Society bigger and better than ever.

Due to extremely warm weather some of the Spring Shows have not had as many top quality blooms as usual; however, the mild winter has been a great help during the fuel shortage and outside growers have had one of the best seasons ever. Keep planting and caring for those Camellia plants. Next winter may be another mild one. Be ready to start gibbing in the fall.

Share your Camellia plants and blooms with others. This can be equally as rewarding as winning at the Camellia Shows.

Best wishes to each one of you for the Spring and Summer season and looking forward to meeting at the fall shows.

Sincerely,

NEAL COX.

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



MARSHALL H. RHYNE

As a climax to the North Carolina Shows, the Spring meeting of the North Carolina Camellia Society will be held March 23rd at Salemburg, N. C.

Members are urged to visit Laurel Lake Gardens and Nursery located one mile east of Salemburg on Laurel Lake Road from 10:00 to 12:00 A. M. The one and one-fourth mile Camellia Trail and the huge underground greenhouse should be in full bloom as well as thousands of azaleas.

Lunch will be served at 12:15 at the Salemburg School cafeteria and will be followed by a very interesting talk with slides by Son Hackney on his recent trip to New Zealand. After this any camellia lover may return to Laurel Lake Gardens and Nursery for more sightseeing.

For reservations to the luncheon, please send your \$4.50 per person to J. Kenneth Blanchard, Box 132, Wallace, North Carolina.

Best wishes for the Spring and Summer to each of you.

MARSHALL H. RHYNE.

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



ROBERT O. MATTHEWS

DEAR MEMBERS:

I am writing the spring message in mid-February. As you know with the mild winter, we have already had a great outdoor blooming period and yet there are many flowers yet to come for our spring show. It really looks like a great year for camellia lovers.

Our show chairmans and committees are hard at work in preparation for what looks like an outstanding spring show at the Military Circle Mall, March 23-24th. We urge each and every member to try and participate—make this show a real big success.

Dr. Charles Elstrodt, Extension Specialist, Horticulture gave the society an outstanding talk on mulches and spring care of camellias for our February meeting. If you were unable to attend you really missed a good one. Our program chairman is planning a really outstanding, informative meeting for May 23rd. Make every effort to attend, especially you old-timers, come and meet the new members, and renew old friendships—share your love for camellias. We are looking forward to seeing each and every member.

This is the last message for 1973-74 blooming season. I have enjoyed being your president for the past year and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a lovely summer and hope you will all have many more happy camellia years.

ROBERT O. MATTHEWS.

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Beautiful England!

MRS. FRANCIS B. EDMONDSON

Every good Gardener dreams of English gardens at their peak of perfection—and this we saw last summer!! You should, too!

The sight of Horse Chestnuts, Laburnums, Lilacs, and Rhododendrons blooming literally everywhere was all unbelievably beautiful. Even upon arrival at Heathrow Airport in London, the blossoms of trees became quite evident.

To view the greatest flower show on earth, the Chelsea Show in London, is a gardener's bit of Heaven. The Chelsea was organized by The Royal Horticultural Society in 1913, and since then, save two interruptions during the wars, gardeners come in thousands to see the flowers and meet their friends. (Imagine that we ran smack into some friends from New York!). More than 150,000 annually have seen the Show in the last few years. The grand-looking Britishers—gentlemen in their bowlers with canes or the inevitable umbrella, ladies in lovely-tailored suits and hats, most of them with pad and pencil taking notes—are a marvelous and dignified sight.

The Chelsea covers 6 to 7 acres, and the marquee (tent to us) covers 3½ acres. It takes 24 men just over two weeks to erect the marquee. The exhibitors, mostly from the British

Isles and Europe, book space in advance and may prepare their stands four days before the "Private View" day (for royalty and members), but all their work must be completed by 4:30 P. M. on Monday. The gardens outside take longer to construct and work there begins on the first Friday in May every year.

The high quality of cultivation is astonishing in spite of the British climate. The Chelsea is both a spectacle and an education for visitors from all over the world to see what they should be able to grow in their own gardens. Admiring the flowers, seeing the latest in gardening equipment, greenhouses, chemicals, etc., visitors may obtain free advice on any gardening problems or subject.

Some highlights were the Garden Layout Sections where gardens were created on the outside, of large enough scale for people to wander through the gardens and enjoy moving water even; the exhibit of hundreds of delphiniums, growing taller than our heads and each specimen of identical height; Bonsai in full bloom; the finest of fruits and vegetables; and CAMELLIAS!! Any flower you could dream of can be seen at the Chelsea—roses, poppies, rare anthuriums—sedums, cacti—everything imaginable! Divine daffodils were exhibited

by Mr. Michael Jefferson-Brown—the long-admired Mrs. Lionel Richardson having shown for the last time in the April Daffodil Show in London, her late husband having been a daffodil hybridizer for many years.

The Chelsea takes place on the grounds of the Royal Hospital on the banks of the Thames. The Royal Hospital pensioners, old soldiers of the Royal Army, turn out in uniform to act as guides at the Show. They, too, are warm, friendly, and helpful.

How in this round world, the exhibitors get the plants each to reach peak perfection at the same moment is unbelievable and ohhhhh, sooo wonderful! It is sinful of me to admit that the artistic arrangements held the least interest for me. Of course, I'm an horticulturist first and last. The designs were much too similar to our style of 25 years ago but quite extravagant with grand flowers and much too heavy and 'busy' for our present tastes and trends in America.

The 1974 Chelsea Show dates will be May 22, 23, and 24! DO GO!

The London parks, formerly the hunting grounds of their royalty, are an inspiration. They are revered by every Britisher, and they enjoy them among masses of blooming trees, rhododendrons, tulips, azaleas, and assorted beds of flowers and roses all summer. NEVER is there any evidence of abuse or littering—even a sign reads "A fine if your dog fouls the footway."

City dwellers take special pride in window boxes and almost every house has a window box or a handsome urn

planted to perfection, boasting as its doorway's polished brass. Everywhere there is true beauty!

Wisley Garden, the garden of the Royal Horticultural Society, in Surrey brought one exclamation after another. Each plant is labeled (and visibly so) and provides education and joy to the beholder. Nearly 200 acres are under cultivation, and Wisley is renowned the world over as a wonderful garden, an important center of horticultural practices, and a pre-eminent trial ground for flowers and vegetables. Wisley affords basic training to young people making gardening their career, and they are housed in the hotel attached to the restaurant in the garden (where the food and tea are just as delightful as the gardens).

The late camellias were marvelous (remembering that the British have not an ounce of concern for the use of gibberellic acid); the yellow azaleas were breathtaking and rhododendrons on the hillsides spectacular; other highlights were: a great collection of deciduous Magnolias, many still in bloom, formal garden, walled garden, rock garden, vegetable garden, glasshouses of tropicals (orchids, and everything), wild garden, herb garden. What a joy to see everything named and labeled so perfectly—especially when you come upon one which is unfamiliar to us in the South.

Then, BODNANT GARDEN—THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF GARDENS to us!! Near Colwyn Bay in Wales, The Garden at Bodnant is on the River Conway. Amongst old, native trees, the natural fall of the land has

been respected and developed into striking effects and covers some 80 acres. Bodnant, developing in stages since 1875, was presented by the late Lord Aberconway to the National Trust in 1949 and is currently presided over by the present Lord and Lady Aberconway (he being President of the Royal Horticultural Society as was his father) and Charles Puddle as Head Gardener, our own founder of the International Camellia Society and its first president.

The Laburnum Arch near the entrance is a glorious feature in its heavenly, welcoming yellow glow of hanging racemes. A lawn slopes from the house into a series of Italian style terraces with a magnificent view over the River Conway and the Snowdon mountain range in the distance. Unbelievable!

A wide range of interesting and beautiful plants is used in the landscape design (rather than a botanical collection). The large and distinctive collection of Camellias thrives at Bodnant. Plants are so healthy and well-cared for, attesting the love of those who guide Bodnant's beauty. The hybridization of many notable rhododendrons has for many years been carried out at Bodnant, where large numbers of the better rhododendron hybrids are seen, both those made at Bodnant and those from elsewhere. The camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons, many 15 to 20 feet high, are spectacular indeed, but magnolias, heathers, water lilies, roses, perennials, yews, lilacs, the orchid houses, countless shrubs and trees of rare quality are sights to behold as well.

The above are only highlights but positive recommendations for your trip. The wonder of it all is that gardeners do speak a universal language; and, we're all dedicated to the creation of God's beauty on earth—this makes us kin and opens doors all over this wonderful world!! Pretty-Pie-Pearle, I hope this is something of what you wanted me to say on these pages. Love from Liz.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Laurel Lake Gardens on Display—N. C. Spring Meeting

North Carolina Society members as well as out of State Camellia lovers will have a chance to see the beautiful Camellia trail as well as a huge underground greenhouse completely filled with blooming Camellias on March 23rd. The gardens will be open for visitors from 10:00 to 12:00 A. M. and again after the luncheon, and the N. C. Camellia Society meeting.

In order for the School P.T.A. ladies to know how much food to prepare, please send \$4.50 per person to Mr. Kenneth Blanchard, Box 132, Wallace, N. C. 28466, before March 18th.

After lunch, Son Hackney will show slides taken in New Zealand gardens, and camellias with comments.

The Gardens will also be open in the afternoon for those wishing to visit them again.

Motels will be available at both Fayetteville and Clinton, N. C., for those wishing to spend a night.

'Miss Charleston', One Of My Favorites

By JAMES H. MCCOY
Fayetteville, North Carolina

In most camellia collections, there is one variety that the owner lives with year after year, feeding it and caring for it, without expecting it ever to produce a head table bloom, but enjoying it just the same. To it he turns when someone wants a few blooms or when a few blooms are needed for the house. One day, he will pass the plant, stop and admire it a moment, then say to himself, "Good old so and so. You never fail me."

For me, such a variety is 'Miss CHARLESTON'. To me it is one of the "great camellias". Year after year the plant is covered with beautiful, medium size blooms. The stems are strong and hold the blooms erect and firm.

The texture is as good as that of any variety. In October, Bill Anderson brought 8 or 10 blooms to the meeting of our club. He gave them to Angie, my wife. One of these blooms was a 'Miss CHARLESTON'. Angie put them in water and placed them on a table in the living room. The next morning, several blooms had flopped and had to be discarded. Within a couple days, all had wilted and were discarded, except 'Miss CHARLESTON'.

She still stood up in the bowl, observing all that went on around her and accepting the admiration of everyone with grace. One week and one day after she was placed in the bowl, she finally faded and was discarded. What more could be expected of any camellia! Eight days on display without any refrigeration or special care!

No, it's unlikely that 'Miss CHARLESTON' will ever win best in show, but occasionally you'll find it in the court of honor. The reason is that it just will not produce monstrous, eye-popping blooms, just a multitude of very good medium size blooms.

It seems to know just how many buds to keep and proceeds to drop all excess. But it keeps enough to produce a continuous stream of blooms throughout the late blooming season. Finally, it opens all remaining buds at once in a spectacular display of joy and delight.

One year, while cutting blooms to take to the show, I passed 'Miss CHARLESTON' by without cutting any blooms, although it had a couple dozen open and at peak condition. I just couldn't decide which one or two to cut. Instead, Angie and two other ladies who went with us wore blooms

of 'MISS CHARLESTON' to the show. In the Court of Honor was a nice bloom of that variety. I examined the bloom carefully and compared it with the three blooms Angie and her friends were wearing. There was not an iota of difference between any of them. It

occurred to me then that I had a plant with two dozen Court of Honor specimens on it.

In conclusion, I can borrow Bob Watters evaluation of 'MARIE BRACEY', "Good old 'MISS CHARLESTON', one of my favorites."

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

An Invitation to Join

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

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Georgetown Annual Camellia Show

The seventh annual Camellia show was on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 2nd and 3rd presented by the Council of Garden Clubs of Georgetown in the Georgetown Youth Center. Theme of the show this year was "The Earth is the Lord's". Mrs. Marion L. Reed was the show chairman and Mrs. R. H. Williams is President of The Council of Garden Clubs

The show was under the rules of The American Camellia Society. Winners of Sweepstakes were: Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Sanders of Mt. Pleasant, gold certificate for 47 blooms grown in the open. Silver sweepstakes winner was Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Seelig of Mt. Pleasant with 32 outdoor blooms. Protected (under glass) Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Blanchard of Wallace, N. C. won the gold certificate for Sweepstakes with 33 Camellia blooms. Silver sweepstakes protected, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Aycock of Smithfield, N. C. with 16 blooms.

Outstanding blooms in the show won by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. Aycock, Mr. G. M. Serpass of Lugoff, S. C., and Mrs. H. G. Deer of Pawley's Island, S. C.

Most outstanding arrangement in the show won by Mrs. David Curry of Whites Bridge Garden Club of Georgetown, S. C.

Judges for the horticulture were Mr. and Mrs. John Graham and Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Seelig of Mt. Pleasant, S. C. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Key, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. McCally, Mrs. Chilsolm Wallace and Mrs. Myers Hicks

of Florence, S. C., Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard of Wallace, N. C., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sanders of Charleston, S. C., Mrs. Stanley Moore, Jr., of Surfside Beach, S. C., and Mrs. David Vurry of Georgetown, S. C.

Judges for the Artistic Arrangements were: Mrs. W. E. Mahoffen, Mrs. H. B. Jackson and Mrs. F. C. Ott of Charleston, S. C. and Mrs. Thomas Langston of Georgetown, S. C.

Prior to the judging of the show, the Judges, officers and other guests were entertained with a lovely luncheon at the Carolinian Restaurant by the South Carolina National Bank.

The luncheon tables were beautiful with arrangements featuring variegated camellias in rainbow colors in combination with driftwood. Shells struck a nautical note in a salute to Georgetown's proximity to the sea. Special guests were Mr. Neal Cox, President of South Carolina Camellia Society, Mrs. J. D. Miller, Sr., representing the South Carolina National Bank, Mrs. R. H. Williams, Jr., president of the Georgetown Council of Garden Clubs, Mrs. Marion Reed, show chairman, Mrs. R. K. Jernigan, chairman of Judges, and Mrs. David P. Curry, Jr., Coastal director of the Garden Club of South Carolina.

Many blooms from over the local community and from out of the county and state were viewed and enjoyed by the hundreds who came to see this annual camellia show.

1974 Aiken Camellia Show

Saturday, January 26, 1974, the day of Aiken's Annual Camellia Show, dawned gray and foggy. This did not dampen the spirit nor enthusiasm of the exhibitors who came from all over South Carolina, from Georgia, Florida and North Carolina. When the doors of the receiving area opened at 8:00 A. M. Mr. J. D. Rosser of Savannah, Georgia, was waiting to start entering his several hundred blooms. Immediately thereafter the entire receiving area was filled with exhibitors. This continued until the deadline for entries at 11:30 A. M.

Aiken County exhibitors turned out in large numbers with outdoor blooms to be entered in competition for the Best Outdoor Bloom in Aiken County award. The Nomenclature Committee had its work cut out for it in trying to identify the large number of blooms since most of the outdoor exhibitors did not know the names of the different varieties they brought.

Boy Scouts who came to help in the receiving area were also pressed into service in helping to place blooms in the staging area. When the final tally was in, there was a total of 3,684 blooms exhibited. Of this number 1,768 were outside blooms, 28 were entered by Junior Exhibitors, 66 were miniatures, there were 59 trays of three, 13 trays of five, 1,189 blooms under glass, 122 blooms in the various artistic arrangements, 68 seedlings, 49 Hybrids with non-retic parentage, 123 Hybrids with retic parentage and 29 Retics.

The judges led by Son Hackney did an excellent job in choosing the winners from the mass array of beautiful blooms and are to be commended for getting the show open on time.

This year's show topped all previous records and according to one judge, who is a charter member of the American Camellia Society, the quality of the blooms was excellent. Flowers grown under glass and flowers grown in the open were of equally high caliber.

Happy Headtable winners were:

Best Bloom in Show—'GUILIO NUCCIO VAR.'—Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Edge

Best Hybrid w/Retic Parentage—'HOWARD ASPER'—Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hendrix

Best Hybrid non/Retic Parentage—'ELEGANT BEAUTY'—S. H. Hackney

Best Japonica in Open under 4½"—'PINK DIDDY'—J. J. Seelig

Best Japonica in Open over 4½"—'MATHOTIANA SUP.'—Bill P. Mayer

Best Japonica protected over 4½"—'HELEN BOWER'—Charles A. Little

Best Japonica protected under 4½"—'ELLA WARD PARSON'—Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Aycock

Best White Japonica—'SILVER CHALICE'—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edge

Best Retic — 'KOHINOR'—Marshall H. Rhyne

Best Collection of 5—Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Bush

Best Collection of 3—Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hendrix

Best Japonica in Open in Aiken County—'GUILIO NUCCIO VAR.'—William Olliff

Best Miniature — 'TYNE ME' — Dr. Olin W. Owen

Best Bloom of Junior Exhibitor—'VILLE DE NANTES'—Rita Faucett

Best Seedling—Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Bush

ACS Gold Certificates:

In Open—J. D. Rosser

Protected—Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Elliot

ACS Silver Certificates:

In Open—Mr. and Mrs. John Graham

Protected—Dr. Olin W. Owens

There were twelve Court of Honor winners. These were Sadie and Ernest

Aycock, Jack Hendrix, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Elliott, Donald K. Geckler, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Dubus with two blooms, Jeanette and John Graham, Ivan J. Mitchell, William Olliff, Dr. Olin W. Owens, Marshall H. Rhyne and L. G. Wilhelm.

Spectators turned out in record numbers to view the two day event. It is estimated that 5,000 to 6,000 people attended this year's show.

Aiken Camellia Club members are ecstatic over the great success of this year's show and are already looking ahead to next year and what they hope will be another record breaker.

Popularity Poll

Viewers at the Aiken Camellia Show, in January, 1974, were given

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the opportunity to vote for their favorite camellia bloom. A total of 229 votes were cast. The ten varieties receiving the most votes, and the number of votes, is shown in the following table:

<i>Variety</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>
'VALENTINE DAY'	32
'SAWADA'S DREAM'	14
'TOMORROW' (all kinds)	12
'BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME'	9 (tie)
'MATHOTIANA SUPREME'	9 (tie)
'KOHINOR'	8
'ELEANOR K'	6
'ELEGANS SUPREME'	5 (tie)
'MRS. D. W. DAVIS'	5 (tie)
'PINK PERFECTION'	5 (tie)

Approximately 75 varieties of camellia blooms received votes.

The viewers were not influenced by the judges of the Show. 'VALENTINE DAY', the biggest vote getter was not on the Head Table, nor on the Court of Honor. 'GUILIO NUCCIO' was determined to be the Best Bloom in Show, Best Bloom in Open in Aiken County, and Best Collection of Three of Same Variety, but the voters did not place it in the top ten.

Of the top ten, only 'KOHINOR' and 'MATHOTIANA SUPREME' were at the Head Table and 'ELEGANS SUPREME' and 'TOMORROW' were on the Court of Honor.

This poll indicates that the viewing public at Camellia Shows is interested in a wide variety of camellia blooms and that their favorite as to variety is not greatly influenced by the judging of the Show.

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L. W. Baxter, Jr. and Wesley Witcher, Professors, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology

W. Ken Glenn, Jr., Assistant Entomologist, Plant Pest Regulatory Service

Without adequate preventive control measures applied to roses in South Carolina, the popular hybrid tea roses are subject to the severe disease, rose black spot, caused by the fungus, *Diplocarpon rosae*. This disease is so widespread that it can be said with reasonable certainty that anyone in S. C. who has a dozen or more hybrid tea rose bushes has to contend with black spot. The symptoms are so well known that they will not be discussed in this report.

In our studies on rose black spot control four chemicals were used: benomyl (Benlate), maneb (Manzate D), folpet (Phaltan), and chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787 or Bravo W-75). Two varieties of roses were used for test purposes: Peace, a very sensitive variety and Crimson Glory, a moderately tolerant variety. The variables studied were (1) chemicals, (2) varieties as mentioned, (3) frequency of application, and (4) rate of application.

During 1973 12 additional varieties were tested to compare the relative effect of the best combination of the

above chemicals for black spot control and to detect chemical damage, if any, to these varieties.

The rates and frequencies of application used were: (1) chlorothalonil—1 lb per 100 gallons of water applied weekly, 2 lb weekly, 4 lb weekly, 1 lb fortnightly, 2 lb fortnightly, and 4 lb fortnightly; (2) benomyl $\frac{1}{2}$ lb weekly, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb fortnightly, 4 lb weekly and 4 lb fortnightly; (3) folpet 2 lb weekly, 4 lb weekly, 2 lb fortnightly, and 4 lb fortnightly; (4) maneb 2 lb weekly, 4 lb weekly, 2 lb fortnightly, 4 lb fortnightly.

Surfactant was added to each spray tank so that better spreading and sticking was achieved. A 3-gallon Hudson pressure type sprayer was used for applying the spray to the roses.

These studies were conducted under the most severe conditions we could anticipate to occur in South Carolina, since all rose plants were severely infected with black spot before any control program was begun. This report therefore does not preclude that under less stringent conditions, other materials might afford reasonable to excellent control of this rose disease. To have good roses in S. C. one should follow (1) sound

horticultural practices, such as using adapted rose cultivars, applying proper fertilization and adequate irrigation, planting in proper sunlight, and following sound weed control practices, and (2) sound entomological practices which protect roses against mites and insects.

The results are summarized as follows:

Excellent control of black spot was achieved with chlorothalonil at 2 lb per 100 gallons applied weekly throughout the growing season. Fortnightly applications were not effective, even at the 4 lb rate. However, a second rose disease, powdery mildew, was not controlled when sprayed weekly with chlorothalonil. Chloro-

thalonil at the rate of 16 pounds per 100 gallons of water (8 times the recommended rate) caused no injury to either of the cultivars Peace or Crimson Glory.

Folpet gave excellent control of black spot and fair control of powdery mildew when used weekly at either 2 or 4 pounds per 100 gallons of water. During hot humid weather folpet caused a slight burning of the leaves of the cultivars Etoile de Hollande, John F. Kennedy, Mirandy, Picture, Blaze, Paul's Scarlet Climber, and Fashion. No toxicity to foliage was noted on the cultivars K. T. Marshall, Talisman, Apricot Nectar, Frensham, and Saratoga.

Benomyl sprayed weekly at 4 lb per 100 gallons of water gave satis-

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factory results, but when it was applied at $\frac{1}{2}$ lb weekly or fortnightly or 4 lb fortnightly, it did not control rose black spot. Benomyl did give excellent powdery mildew control, however, even at the $\frac{1}{2}$ lb rate applied fortnightly.

A combination spray of chlorothalonil-benomyl or folpet-benomyl gave excellent control against both black spot and powdery mildew.

Maneb was ineffective in our tests. In fact the roses given any maneb treatment and the benomyl treatment at $\frac{1}{2}$ lb applied fortnightly were no better than roses in the control (water spray only).

In South Carolina control of black spot has been studied extensively for 4 years. One group of these roses has been left without administering control procedures for the last 2 years and these roses (144 plants) are all either dead or so weakened by black-spot that it is questionable whether or not they will survive this winter (1973-74).

An additional factor involved in death or dying back of stems (canes) is fall pruning. In our studies at Clemson University any treatment which afforded protection of rose foliage against black spot and which was coupled with spring pruning resulted in excellent performance the subsequent summer. Fall pruning resulted in unthrifty or dead plants regardless of the fungicide program followed.

A final study using chlorothalonil applied weekly for varying time periods, beginning June 5 and ending on one of the three following dates—June 30, July 31, August 31—resulted in severe black spot development within 6 weeks subsequent to cessation of treatment. In this study four varieties were used, namely, Peace, Crimson Glory, Mojave, and Swathmore. This study indicates that unless black spot is either prevented or eradicated, severe black spot soon reappears on susceptible rose cultivars in South Carolina.

SUMMARY

Weekly sprays to roses with either of two chemicals, folpet or chlorothalonil, used as directed on the package labels, gave excellent control of rose black spot. Fortnightly sprays of any type under these conditions were inadequate for satisfactory control of this disease. A combination spray using either chlorothalonil or folpet with benomyl applied at recommended label rates afforded excellent protection against both rose diseases, black spot and powdery mildew.

Black spot control procedures must be applied to roses over a long time period in South Carolina in order to satisfactorily suppress this fungus disease. Control of black spot coupled with spring pruning resulted in excellent performance of roses the subsequent summer.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Rejuvenating Our Old Camellias

By IVAN MITCHELL
Melrose, Florida

During the nineteenth century, all throughout the lower part of the old South, one or more cherished "japonica" bushes or trees was as much a part of life as the prized scuppernong vine, the matched carriage horses, and the treasured pieces of mahogany, walnut, china or silver heirlooms that proudly graced the dwellings of that day.

Sailing ships from Europe and far off China docked at Charleston, Mobile, and Savannah with Camellia plants as part of their cargo. The greenhouses in Boston engaged in commercial propagation. The Fruitland Nurseries in Augusta, now the site of the Masters Golf Tournament, furnished many of the specimens planted throughout our Southland. Undoubtedly many plants came from seedlings, and many others came from "slips" taken from choice varieties of that day and rooted by some of those storied Southern belles of yesteryear. Formal blooms were in high favor. It was immaterial that blooms did not get as big as dinner plates. The main thing was to have plenty of blooms, and thick foliage. An annual application of barnyard fertilizer promoted growth and a heavy crop of blooms, and an occasional drenching of the foliage with sudsy wash water served to keep the leaves shiny and free of pests.

Some of these ancient plantings still survive—in Charleston, Augusta,

Mobile and elsewhere throughout the South, not only in places such as Magnolia Gardens, Middleton Gardens, and Bellingrath, but also around private estates and homes, and old farms.

A dozen years or so before World War II, interest again was intensified in Camellias. Propagation became quite extensive, and hundreds of thousands of Camellias were planted in the next couple of decades. Prior to the extension of the growing limits of the Camellia into Northern areas, and the general use of sheet plastic in greenhouses, most of these plants were set out in the ground.

Sometimes when Camellias are planted in the ground, initial horticultural enthusiasm wanes. Sometimes the plants become unthrifty, and flowers depreciate in size and luster. However, adequate attention is provided these older trees or bushes, results are most rewarding. It is toward this end that the major content of this article is hopefully directed.

In early November of this past year, my wife and I were in Moultrie, Georgia, and stopped by to see Bill and Fran Mathis. Their garden was spectacular. Huge flowers graced the many Camellia trees carefully grouped and spaced throughout their grounds. Many of these plants appeared to be on stocks two or more inches in caliper. However, they were carefully pruned and divested of all wood that did not contribute to the

health and vigor of the plants. There was enough "horse power"—or perhaps I should say "root power"—to guarantee that each bud had the opportunity to open into a specimen bloom. Bill told me that these plants had originally been grown in his green houses, and when they grew too large for containers and their allocated spaces, instead of discarding them he planted them outside in his garden.

When a two or three year old graft opens its first buds, we have the phenomenon of three or four years of excess "root power" that serves to transmute a limited number of buds into specimen blooms of undiluted quality. Doctor Bill Mathis realized the equivalent of this in his old and mature plants by maximizing the excess of vigor of their root systems to generate those beautiful blooms. Doctor Bill deliberately created what you call a favorable or "positive" root imbalance in his plants.

It has been my observation, in my limited experience, that when the imbalance between root system and top is no longer in favor of the root system—most varieties seem to retaliate by producing blooms of under average size and quality. This may partially explain why some of the highly touted introductions in the past have failed to realize the performance so enthusiastically subscribed to them at time of introduction.

When top and root system are both in actual or theoretical balance, we should expect blooms of average size and quality for that variety in that

environment. When a condition of so called imbalance exists, we should reasonably expect blooms of exaggerated size—either larger than the norm, or smaller than the norm—depending on whether this so called imbalance is "positive" or "negative".

Operating on this hypothesis, let us take a look at a few things we can do to bring about a favorable root imbalance.

We might first follow the example of Dr. Bill Mathis, and properly prune away unproductive excess wood. Several years ago, Mr. Norwood Hastic wrote a classic on pruning Camellias. It was entitled "Sharpen Up Those Rusty Shears", and has been published in a number of Camellia periodicals. (It might be nice if this article were reprinted in CAROLINA CAMELLIAS.) Just cutting these plants back—perhaps to eye level—and removing unproductive twigs and limbs can do much to achieve a positive root imbalance.

For those plants that have been in the ground for a long time, and perhaps have had to forage a bit for food and moisture, we can do even more. When we first planted those choice varieties, we probably set them out in our own favorite concoction of planting media. For a time we kept them watered and fed. They generously rewarded us with beautiful blooms. Gradually the planting medium broke down, and possibly we missed feeding them a time or two. To compensate, the roots started reaching out to forage a bit, on their own, for additional things that Camellia roots like. When and if this hap-

pens, one way to help restore vigor to the roots is to provide the roots with a mixture of ingredients that encourage root health and growth. This can be done with the help of a handy device, available at many garden supply stores, called a bulb planter.

A bulb planter is substantially a hollow, cylindrical spade about two and a half inches in diameter and seven to eight inches long. It has a handle attached to the cylindrical blade, around twenty-six inches long. You can push the planter into the ground, and when you pull it out it will extract a core of soil two and a half inches in diameter and seven to eight inches long. By lifting out cores of soil every twelve to fifteen inches—or whatever distance you select—around the perimeter of the planter's

drip line, you provide a series of nice subterranean depositories for your root energizing additive.

The additive I have used in the sandy soils of Florida has worked fairly well for me. I have a four cubic foot capacity wheelbarrow. I fill it with a mixture of old bark, old sawdust, native peat, and either coarse sand or sandy soil. I use about one part each, and substitute or delete according to my supply on hand. To this I add a pound coffee can full of castor pumice, and an equal amount of milorganite. If I do not have milorganite, I double up on castor pumice. I add two cups of super-phosphate, and a half cup each of Perk (minor elements) and chelated iron. These ingredients are all thoroughly mixed. I wheel the barrow adjacent

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'MARGUERITE SEARS'

'MALINDA HACKETT'
'SUZY WONG'

AND MANY OTHERS

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to the plants to be treated, and use a scoop to fill the holes made by the bulb planter. I don't fill the holes quite to the top. This permits the water to seep down easily into the mixture. The mulch is raked back over the feeding holes. Since roots go searching for such things as old bark, sawdust, moisture and food, the roots will tend to reconcentrate back close to home.

Castor pumice is much like cotton seed meal in that it releases slowly and over a sustained period, and in this concentration will not burn. There is one big difference, however. Ground moles hate castor pumice with the same passion that they love cotton seed meal. So don't be surprised if your moles decide to leave your place—and probably move over to your next door neighbor's garden. I get castor pumice in eighty pound bags, and it carries an analysis of 20-0-20. In the ground, it starts breaking down in four to six weeks and continues to release for as long as two years. I usually perform this bit with the bulb planter from January to March. However, I still give these plants their regular feeding in the spring just before growth starts.

This procedure of subterranean feeding is for established plants that have been in the ground for some time. It is not recommended for recently transplanted trees or bushes, or those plants grown in containers.

Many of us who grow Camellias may not be Camellia "purists". We may still like some of the old varieties such as 'MATHOTIANA', 'ELEGANS',

'PINK PERFECTION', 'GLEN 40', and 'PROFESSOR SARGENT', as well as the exotic hybrids, 'TOMORROW PARK HILL', 'ELEGANS SPLENDOR' and other prize winners. We may enjoy them as adjuncts to our landscape, as well as growing them for show competition. When we plant them among other ornamentals and under the protective semi-shade of pines and live oaks, we usually find that in a few years, the roots from these other plants invade the areas occupied by our Camellias. This can cause a "negative" root imbalance. So a third thing we can do is to reduce the competition from other roots encroaching upon our Camellias.

I use an inexpensive pruning saw, to which is attached a four foot handle, to eliminate this unwanted foraging—or at least to help reduce it. The blade of this slightly curved saw goes into the ground quite easily, and cuts as you pull it up. To me it cuts through tree and other invading roots much easier, and with less disturbance than a spade or shovel. I also use this saw to root prune my Camellias when they are dormant.

A few months after applying the regenerating mix into the bulb planter holes, carefully dig down into one of these holes. You will probably find some nice white Camellia roots. Also you will probably find growth buds starting to pop out along those tough old trunks that you thought were too hard to ever foster any new growth buds.

We have mentioned three things that we might do to help restore our older plants to greater vitality and better blooming performance. In do-

ing these three things perhaps we will accomplish a fourth even more important thing—showing a little overdue attention, care, and love on these previously neglected plants. For after all, the Camellia is indisputably a Lady—and it has ever been the optional practice, and the occasional prerogative, of all ladies to discriminate bestow their charms and favors on those who show them some tender loving care!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

These Bulb Planters may be purchased from The Geo. Park Seed Co., Inc., P. O. Box 21, Greenwood, S. C. 29647. Chrome plated blade and re-tails for around \$6.00.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Making the Camellia Show Scene

You wake in the morning with a start,
There's competition in the air and panic in your heart.
This is the year you vow you'll do your best
And now the time has come for the test.
Today's the first Camellia Show
And after that there's eight to go.
You stagger out in the dawn's early light
Picking Camellias with all your might.
The boxes you fill with blooms galore
Load up the car and shut the door.
"Are the entry cards ready?" you yell at your mate,
"Hurry up, hurry up, or we will be late".

Down the highway you go full speed ahead
Already your legs feel like hunks of lead.
You arrive at the shown your mind's in a spin
You grab the boxes and rush right in.
You fly through the aisles your mind in a flutter
"I'll show those guys", you're heard to mutter.

From A to Z your blooms are placed
The time now has come to see who wins that silver pot or vase.
The judges are ready to determine your fate
No bribes, no money accepted
This isn't Watergate.

The hours seem long as the Judges decide
So you take the family out for a ride.
At last! At last! the time has come
To see whatever you might have won.
With eager steps to the trophies you run
And there you see, the winning one!
A bloom so bedraggled—a heck of a mess.
"What happened here is anyone's guess.
Are the judges blind? Can't they see?
That mine was a better bloom, oh, gee!"
But in that moment you get a flash
Why worry now and start a big clash
When next week there's another show
and maybe then you'll be the one to GLOW.

HELEN AUGIS,
San Jose, California.

Chit-Chat Column

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Tom and Dottie) Evans delightfully entertained at their lovely home and gardens on Laurel Drive in Aiken, S. C., on Friday evening before the Aiken Camellia Show with a cocktail dinner party honoring the Judges and Tom's mother and dad from Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. Their gardens and greenhouse were beautiful with Tom and Dottie's head table winner Camellias. The weather was spring like and their guests enjoyed the outdoors almost as much as the lovely Camellia arrangements inside and the delicious food and drinks. Visitors from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina had a memorable evening with two of their favorite Camellia friends.

Then on Saturday, after the show, Judges and out of town exhibitors were the guests of The Farmers and Merchants Bank of Aiken at a delightful Drop-In at The Ramada Inn. I can't say enough for our Banks who sponsor our Camellia Shows. They truly deserve our patronage. Folks lingered until the closing hours—Good food and fellowship.

Sunday morning from 9:00 A. M. 'til 11:00 A. M. the Camellia Judges were again entertained with a delicious breakfast at the beautiful home of the Paul Darhlens on Laurel Drive in Aiken. Guests enjoyed their green-

house with one of the finest collections of the best and newest varieties of Camellias and the lovely landscaped gardens. Marie's talent of interior decorating and landscaping was evident everywhere.

Everyone left Aiken agreeing that Aiken Camellia folks were the most gracious hosts and hostesses.

Good news from Macon, Ga. Terrell Weaver has been conducting Camellia Culture Courses at the Y. W. C. A. with great success. Classes once a week in the morning and again that evening. So much enthusiasm that he has been asked to hold another next year. That's our Terrell—sharing his great knowledge and love for Camellias!

Mid-Carolina Camellia Society of Columbia, S. C., had their best Spring Show on Feb. 8th and 9th on the campus of The University of South Carolina at the Capstone House. Sponsored by Bankers Trust of Columbia. Their new bank building will be completed before next year's Spring Show. The luncheon for the Judges and out of town exhibitors, guests of Banker's Trust, was a most enjoyable occasion. Delicious food in the revolving restaurant at the top of The Capstone House. What a view!

Friday evening the Judges were honored with a cocktail Buffet Din-

ner by Mr. and Mrs. Henry ("Happy") Edens at their lovely home and Camellia Gardens on Sweetbriar Road. The spacious home and gracious host and hostess, "Happy" and Jane, was a memorable evening for everyone there.

Patronize the Banks Who Sponsor Our Shows!!

Great plans are being made for the Fall State Meeting of The North Carolina Camellia Society. The Place—Eastern Carolina University, Greenville, N. C. The date? To be announced later. It will not conflict with Camellia Shows or The ACS Meeting at Masee Lane.

Six members of The Greenwood Camellia Club were guests of The Mid-Carolina Camellia Club the Saturday of their show at The Capstone House. They wanted to learn first hand how to "put on" a Camellia Show. Mr. J. U. Smith, show chairman, gave them permission to watch the receiving, placing and judging of the blooms. President Elliot Brogden

offered to have them come to his home for final instructions. Mrs. George Byrd left with a book full of notes. Their club meets on Sunday afternoons and their speaker for February was Mr. Thomas C. Evans, Past President of The South Carolina Camellia Society, from Aiken, S. C.

Greenwood Camellia Club Members visiting the Columbia Spring Show were: Mr. and Mrs. George Counts, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cannon, Mrs. R. W. Hart and Mrs. George Byrd.

Best wishes for their first Fall Camellia Show in Greenwood. Many fine growers up in your area and you can count on the Aiken and Columbia Camellia Clubs for help if you need us.

South Carolina Camellia Society business meeting was held at The Capstone House before the Camellia Show was opened on Saturday. Plans are being made for our Spring Meeting to be in Columbia in April. Date to be announced later.

Officers and Directors present were: Pres. Neal Cox, Vice-pres. B. E. Stock-

In Memoriam

The South Carolina Camellia Society, The Greenwood Camellia Club and The American Camellia Society lost a very dear and lovely lady, when Mrs. J. A. Timmerman of Greenwood,

S. C., died February 2, 1974. Our deepest sympathy to J. A., her husband, and family. She will be missed at our South Carolina Camellia Shows and State meetings.

man, Sec. and Treas. P. D. Rush, Directors M. F. Miller of Ridgeland, W. C. Robertson of Aiken, Stanley Holtzclaw of Greer, Jack Teague of Columbia, Frank Key of Florence. Past president Thomas C. Evans of Aiken and *CAROLINA CAMELLIAS Editor*, Pearl Cooper.

Did you see the portrait of the late Emory ("Pappy") Prevatt which was presented to The American Camellia Society by the Graem Yates of Charlotte, N. C., which was on display at the Aiken Camellia Show? Thank you, Joe Pyron, for bringing it to South Carolina. Mr. Prevatt for many years never missed the Aiken Camellia Show.

News Flash! The Greenwood Camellia Club has finalized plans for the Fall Show. The date Oct. 26th. Check this date on your calendar and let's all go to Greenwood that Saturday!

The banquet on Saturday evening honoring the Camellia Judges was in The Pavillion Room at the Hilton

Town House Motel. Carroll Moon, as master of ceremonies, was at his best. Thank you, Louise and Carroll, as chairman of Judges, for a most delightful weekend.

Did you see South Carolina Director of District No. 2, Jack Teague displaying his beautiful little 6 month old Granddaughter at the show instead of his usual lovely camellias?

Heading for California are The Milton Browns of Masee Lane, Ga. The Jay Ellis's of Keystone Heights, Fla. The Bill Kemps of Goldsboro, N. C., "Son" and Anne Hackney of Charlotte, N. C., North Carolina's State President Marshall Rhyne and Ethel of Belmont, N. C., The Mayo Fitzhugh's from McLean, Va.

South Carolinians heading West are: Tom and Dottie Evans, Aiken, S. C., Herb and Frances Racoff, F. N. ("Buster") and Helen Bush of Columbia, S. C., and your Editor, Pearle Cooper, Springfield, S. C.

NOTE: If I have omitted anyone—you failed to tell me you were going.

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Things To Do Until We Meet Again

What to do in March:

SPRAY! . . . SPRAY!

Camellias—Gardenias—Evergreens—Azaleas, soon as they finish blooming. Use Oil-I-Cide, Volk Oil or Volk Paste Emulsion. Add Isotox or malithion with your oil sprays. Peaches—apples—plus—grapes and strawberries with Home Orchard spray.

ROSES—once a week to prevent black spot, powdery mildew and insects. Good garden and rose Fungicide and Isotox makes an excellent spray. See article by Dr. Luther Baxter in this issue about Roses.

FERTILIZE

CAMELLIAS — Rhododendron — Gardenias—hollies. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ cup per foot of upright growth of Azalea and Camellia fertilizer. Liquid Azalea and Camellia Food is also good. Fertilize Azaleas after blooming with the same amounts and same fertilizers.

Your pansy beds and other bedding plants once a week with liquid fertilizer—Hyponex, Rapid Grow Instant Vigoro ETC. Fertilize lawns as soon as danger of frost is past.

If you haven't fertilized your pecan trees, do so this month. Use a good IO-IO-IO fertilizer and zinc sulphate or a good Pecan Fertilizer.

Your trees, foundation shrubbery and flowering shrubs need 8-8-8 or IO-IO-IO fertilizer.

Boxwoods should never be fertilized after MARCH!

What to do in April:

KEEP ON SPRAYING

Continue to spray your roses every week. Caterpillars may appear on your Azaleas—spray with Isotox. Boxwoods—use Isotox spray. Continue to spray Peaches—Apples—Plums and Pears with fruit tree spray or Home and Orchard spray.

FERTILIZE

NEVER FERTILIZE A DRY PLANT

Another feeding of Camellia and Azalea Fertilizer for your Camellias and Azaleas.

Pansy plants need plenty of fertilizer. If aphids or snails appear, use Isotox for aphids—Bug-Geta pellets for snails.

Roses need fertilizer every spring month.

PLANT!

Gladiolus bulbs, dahlias, caladiums, begonias and canna bulbs. Most bedding plants may be put out during April.

Tomato plants for home use.

Apply Chlordane, Dieldrin or Aldrin on plant beds, lawns and under the mulch of shrubbery. If ground insects are killed, there will be little danger of mole damage. When their food supply is killed they will move on to a careless gardener's yard.

PRUNE

Spring flowering shrubs should be pruned just as soon as they finish blooming.

What to do in May and June:

The last spring feeding for Camellias should be applied during May or early June. The same applies for Azaleas. Buds begin forming in June—If the weather is very dry water thoroughly and regularly these months.

Prune your azaleas as soon as they have finished blooming.

Annual flower seed may be planted now.

Bedding plants are available now. Re-work and plant your window and porch boxes now. Use a plant starter and root stimulator to get plants off to a healthy start.

Lawns: Plant Centipede or St. Augustine (Charleston Grass) for a new lawn or to renovate bare spots in your lawn. A bushel of runners or stolens is needed for 300 sq. ft. of ground. Zoysia or hybrid Bermuda may also be plugged or sprigged now.

Centipede, Common Bermuda or Carpet Grass seed may be seeded now.

MULCH!

A heavy mulch of pine straw, coarse bark or pecan hulls around Camellias, Azaleas, Roses and Gardenias will help to conserve moisture.

Fertilize your lawn now, and every two months. If a fading green color use liquid iron in June.

Pinch back chrysanthemums and Poinsettias to make them branch this month.

Watch your pine and dogwood trees for borers. Spray trunks with a borer spray mixed with fuel oil or water according to recommendations on the bottle.

WATER!

A successful gardener never allows a newly set plant to become dry. Dogwoods, newly set, should be kept moist for at least two growing seasons. REMEMBER, lack of a little water may cost the original price of seed, sprigs, plants, shrubs or trees, plus the cost of fertilizer, insecticides and your time and aching back planting your garden.

What to do in July and August:

Check Camellias and Azaleas for scale. If you find it, spray with Cygon.

Lace flies on Azaleas and Pyracantha use Isotox spray.

Spraying your shrubbery around your house and patio with Isotox, 3 Tablespoons per gallon of water will control flies, gnats, chiggers, ticks and mosquitos.

Water: Especially Camellias, Azaleas, Dogwoods and Roses during dry spells. Water thoroughly two or three

times a week in the late afternoon. If you are going off on vacation these months, make arrangements for your yard man, if you are lucky enough to have one, or a good neighbor to take care of this chore.

Ants: 10% Chlordane dust or granules is one of the best insecticides for ants in or around the home and flower beds. This will also control moles in your lawn or flower beds.

Bearded Iris: Best time to divide bearded iris. Divide rhizomes and save only the vigorous outer rhizomes. Plant a foot apart in a sunny exposure. Work soil firmly around the roots but barely cover the rhizomes.

Enjoy these two months—rest up for the Fall Gardening Chores.

"Gibbing" Camellias—Fall spraying and clean up—resume fertilizing of Camellias and Azaleas.

September—A Busy Month for we Gardeners:

September is usually a DRY month—water lawns and shrubbery. Use Gibberellic Acid on two or four camellia buds per plant for the Fall Camellia Shows. Repeat every two weeks.

If a HOT September clean up your Camellias, Azaleas and Gardenias with Cygon Spray. Remember we do not use Oil Sprays when the temperature may soar above 90 degrees or drop below 45 degrees.

Fertilize Camellias and Azaleas with a good ALL purpose Fall fertilizer.

If your lawns had a vacation from fertilizer during the past 60 days—they are hungry and need a good application of fertilizer now. S-S-S pebble or Turf Builder is a good one to use in September.

Check for an infestation of Red Spiders, Aphids, Lace Bugs, white flies and leaf eating insects. Isotox will do the job for all of these.

Feed your Chrysanthemums twice this month or until flower buds show color. Root Geranium cuttings now for winter blooms.

Prepare your beds for Fall Bulbs. Mix in peat moss, if your soil is tight, and Bulb food or Bone Meal.

Prune your Crepe Myrtles as soon as blossoms shatter.

Plant Spider Lilies now.

Sow Rye Grass now.

Happy Gardening! See you at the Fall Flower Shows in October.

—ACS—

“Hody’s” Views About Gibbing Seedlings

“HODY” WILSON

Hammond, Louisiana

Why not “Gib” seedlings? We do not gib to see if they will gib well, but if they are actually desirable flowers for us. The majority of the 6,000 to 7,000 members of ACS grow their camellias in the area where many of the shows do not make any distinction between treated and untreated flowers; and any worthwhile new seedling will have to be one that is good enough, regardless of whether it is gibbed or ungibbed, to make the grade in this area.

By using classic examples, I can illustrate for you what I am trying to say. In this area and across the south, ‘CLARK HUBBS’ is an absolute dog and worthless to us unless gibbed. Then it becomes a very worthwhile variety—a top variety. Another good example for gibbing—‘FLORENCE STRATTON’ and its mutant ‘SIEUR DE BIENVILLE’. As a naturally grown seedling, this would never get in any of our shows as it blooms late. Yet, with the use of gibberellic acid, we can get it even in the early shows and it is a very fine flower for the regular show season.

Gibberellic acid’s greatest value is Early Blooming. I can remember the time I was to judge six shows and had five of them called off, and the other was a poor one, due to cold weather. With the advent of plastic and protected flowers, we no longer have this trouble. Now our problem is too many shows conflicting with each other and not enough weekends.

These early shows are increasing and this is a good thing.

What I have tried to say is that the idea that the great big blooms attained by gibbing has been emphasized to too great a degree; and that the number of shows and ACS members, or non-members so far as that goes, in the South and Southeast that use gibberellic acid constitute a very large percentage of Camellia growers. Without a doubt, it is a standard cultural practice with these people at the present time and can only increase as we grow more Camellias. Certainly the evaluation of seedlings when grown under similar cultural practices is consistent with the growing of Camellias.

Camellia Relatives In The Southeastern United States

By DR. VICTOR M. CUTTER, JR.
(From Pied-Cam Review, 1960)

Very few of the Camellia fanciers in this area who are accustomed to thinking of their favorite shrubs as exotic introductions from the orient realize that several close relatives of these oriental gems grow wild in the Piedmont and adjacent coastal plain. Yet no botanist would be surprised by this for the similarity of the floras of southeastern Asia and the southern Appalachians has been appreciated since the time of Asa Gray. The family Theaceae to which the Camellias belong include some twenty more or less distinct genera of a siatic plants and three of these genera include species which grow wild in the south atlantic states. These three genera, *Stewartia*, *Gordonia*, and *Franklinia* all contain species of horticultural value and of considerable historic interest to Camellia fanciers. Few of them are at present in cultivation in the Greensboro area, yet all of them can be grown here and would make notable additions to our gardens. The garden conditions under which they thrive are little different from those which assure success with Camellias and since all these species are summer blooming shrubs they occupy a place in the flowering cycle of our gardens which no imported species of Camellia can fill. Frequently, one hears a Camellia grower lamenting the lack of summer blooming Camellias, while here we have several gor-

geous Camellia-like shrubs perfectly adapted to this purpose yet scarcely known in the nurseries of this region. To acquaint our members with the horticultural possibilities of these forms a brief description of them may not be amiss.

Two species of *Stewartia* are native to North Carolina and the adjacent states to the south and west. *Stewartia Malacodendron*, the Silky Camellia, is typically a plant of the upper coastal plain and the lower Piedmont where it grows in mixed woods and low lying ground but rarely in pure pine stands. It is a slender shrub with deciduous, thin, light green leaves. Out of flower it resembles some of our larger native Azaleas. The single, white flowers are 3-4 inches in diameter with the petal edges nicely frilled and a prominent cluster of purple stamens. The flowers are borne individually on short petioles from the axils of the leaves and in favorable localities the plants may be quite floriferous. In size and shape the flowers are strikingly similar to a single white *Sasanqua* such as *Hano-Yuki*. This *Stewartia* is widely grown in gardens in England and on the Continent and is not infrequently planted in the Boston and New York areas, but is rarely seen in gardens in the South. Like so many of our ornamental natives, it is frequently scorned in favor of less satisfactory

and spectacular exotics. It is perfectly hardy in our area and will respond to the same culture as Sasanquas but may benefit from a slightly moister exposure than most Camellias.

The so-called Mountain Camellia, *Stewartia ovata* (*S. Pentagyna* in the older literature) is occasionally encountered along the cool hardwood slopes of the Blue Ridge and the associated ranges, usually at an altitude of above two-thousand feet. It occurs frequently on northern exposures in the Sauratown Mountains around Hanging Rock and at higher elevations in Wilkes and Surrey Counties. This is a spreading shrub with broad deciduous leaves, grayish below, and when growing in dense shade it tends to be somewhat spindly. Properly pruned and fertilized, however, it makes an excellent garden shrub. Like its relative, *S. Malacodendron*, the flowers are white and single with five to six frilled petals and brilliant orange anthers. The flowers are spaced along the branches and are borne much more profusely than in other species of *Stewartia*. This plant has been in cultivation in England since the 1820s and it is much prized there. In this vicinity it flowers in late June and seems perfectly at home in lightly shaded spots on acid soil under hardwood or evergreen trees. It is completely winter hardy but when grown in the Piedmont it should be protected against excessive summer drought since its thin deciduous leaves are not as resistant to desiccation as the thicker evergreen leaves of the true Camellias. This form makes a showy and

worthwhile addition to any summer Camellia garden.

The Loblolly Bay, *Gordonia lasianthus*, is one of the great glories of the outer coastal plain, and is, perhaps, the largest of the Camellia family forming an erect spreading evergreen tree or shrub up to 75 feet high in favored locales. In North Carolina it is fairly frequent in wet pocosins along the inner sounds and on the dry sand ridges that mark the sites of former sand dunes. In moist spots this species form slender trees with long internodes and rather sparse foliage but on the sterile sand blow-outs near the outer end of the Pamlico Peninsula in Carteret County, where it reaches its maximum development, it makes magnificent rounded trees with brilliant yellow stamens. The persistent evergreen leaves are heavy and very dark green 6-8 inches long with a wavy toothed margin and are borne on dark black green twigs. The trunk of mature trees is dark red and the wood is sometimes used in fine cabinet work.

At a distance, trees of *Gordonia* resemble a small leaved variety of *Magnolia grandiflora* but they are much more floriferous than the *Magnolias*. The beautifully cupped flowers are short lived, lasting only one or two days, but they are carried in clusters which open in sequence and trees may remain in bloom for a month or more. On cut sprays the buds will continue to open and thus the branches are excellent for house decoration. The blooming period in North Carolina depending on locality runs from June through August. It

seems to prefer the most acid and sterile of soils and along the coast can tolerate standing water around its roots for long periods. Like many plants which grow naturally on sandy soils, its wide branching root system is difficult to transplant and for this reason it should be grown from seeds or if plants are collected in the wild only young specimens with restricted root growth should be moved. This is one member of the *Camellia* Family which prefers exposed situations in full sun and it will not tolerate heavy shade. While *Gordonia* is reputed to be difficult to cultivate, it has been grown successfully in the Piedmont and it has been introduced into gardens as far north as Boston. When attempting to grow it in heavy clay soils the planting bed should be lightened with sand and peat or other humus and it should be very liberally mulched. Furthermore, young plants must be liberally supplied with water until the root systems are well established. Admittedly a difficult subject, a well-grown specimen of *Gordonia* will make a conversation piece in any garden. Like the evergreen magnolia this tree is difficult to handle in its younger stages, but once established it has great permanence and freedom from disease.

Of all the *Camellia* relatives indigenous to the western hemisphere, perhaps *Franklinia altamaha* has occasioned the greatest interest. Its common name in the low country of the Carolinas and Georgia "The Lost *Camellia*" presents a clue to its romantic history. First discovered and described in 1765 by the colonial

botanists, John and William Bartram, from the floodplain of the Altamaha River in South Georgia it was never again seen in the wild state except by Dr. Moses Marshall who revisited this locality in 1790. Fortunately, John Bartram had brought seeds of *Franklinia* to his garden on the Schuylkill river near Philadelphia and from plants grown there it was disseminated to England and many gardens in the central atlantic states. At the present time, it is a popular garden plant through much of the northeast but is rather infrequently seen in gardens in this area. The original shrub in Bartram's garden at Kingsessing is still extant and is now some fifteen feet high and at least fifty feet in circumference. The flowers are quite reminiscent of *Gordonia* although somewhat larger and not so fragile. Well grown plants flower profusely for over a month in our climate, usually starting to bloom in mid-August. It is easily propagated by seeds or cuttings and is a rapidly growing shrub with excellent leaf substance. Not the least of its attractiveness is the brilliant fall coloration when the large deciduous leaves turn a vivid orange red. Like *Gordonia*, it does best in full sun and benefits by severe pruning. In shade it becomes slender and leggy. Like all members of the *Camellia* family, its soil preference is acid but it tolerates neutral soils better than most of its relatives and will get along well in an ordinary shrub border. At present it is the most widely planted and choicest of the *Camellia*-like shrubs and for general garden work probably the most satis-

factory. While regarded as extinct in the wild state, it is available in various nurseries and should be much more widely used in this area.

No article on the *Camellia* relatives of the southeastern United States would be complete without reference to the Tea Plant, *Camellia sinensis*. This important asiatic commercial plant has been introduced a number of times to our area and periodically has become established as an escape in the low country of South Carolina and Georgia. When it finds suitable conditions it makes an excellent shrub with heavy crops of single white flowers borne in great profusion. As a hedge plant it is superior to most *Ca-*

mellia since it responds well to heavy pruning and will form a very compact growth. It could become a very valuable addition to our gardens but outside of a few collections it is practically unknown in the South today.

All of these appealing shrubs can still be secured from various nurseries and with a little care established in our area. Most of them survive and bloom more reliably in our uncertain climate than their temperamental exotic relatives from Asia. Why not add an unusual note to your summer *Camellia* garden with a few specimens of these rare and distinctive native shrubs?

—ACS—

Spring Meeting Of S. C. Camellia Society

The S. C. Camellia Society will hold their Spring meeting in Columbia on Saturday April 27, 1974.

An interesting tour has been arranged with the new Riverbanks Park and Zoo. Those interested in the tour will meet at 10:00 A. M. and purchase tickets. Officials of the Zoo will conduct the tour. The Riverbanks Park and Zoo will have their official opening on April 25, 1974. You will have an opportunity to see the newest attraction in Columbia just two days after it opens. The Riverbanks Park and Zoo is located on I26 at the Greystone Exit.

Those coming to the luncheon and business meeting only will meet at 1:30 P. M. at The Ramada Inn located at the intersection of I26 and 378 in the West Columbia area.

Remember the good fellowship at our past Spring meeting. This Spring it is centrally located due to the gasoline crisis. You should be able to leave home and return on a full tank of gasoline.

For reservations for the luncheon send your check for \$3.00 per person to—Jack Teague, 7217 Teague Road, Columbia, S. C. 29209. To confirm your reservation as soon as possible or by April 20, 1974, will be appreciated.

Plan to meet your friends in Columbia on April 27, 1974, and have a full day of entertainment, fun and fellowship.

JACK TEAGUE,
Chairman of Arrangements.

Camellia Society of Potomac Valley Members Report a Wonderful Time at International Camellia Conference

Members who attended the International Camellia Conference in Australia in July and August will not soon forget the wonderful camellias, the hospitality of friendly fellow growers of camellias, the varied programs which filled each day, the scenic pleasures of "Down Under", and the superb organization of the Conference by the Conference Director, Peter Duly and the Deputy Director Eric Craig. The Conference was an undoubted success and led those who attended to express the hope that another International Camellia Society Conference will be organized for 1975, possibly in Japan.

Thoroughly enjoyable also was the visit to New Zealand and trips to the scenic sights and to various camellia gardens in both the South and the North Islands, which took the place of an organized Conference.

The CSPV group, eight in number, and consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Maryott, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Dean Hall, Mrs. William Jarvis, Mrs. K. Lahr, Mrs. Ireland and your Editor, was the largest delegation from any one locality in the United States. The Southern California Camellia Society had seven members from Southern California.

The program of the Conference featured both the viewing of camellias in public and private gardens, at special exhibitions and at Nurseries and the opportunities to see the major points of interest and scenic beauty. These included scenic spots in and

around Sydney, several national parks, points of interest between Sydney and Canberra, at Canberra itself and then between Canberra and Swan Hill and between Swan Hill and Melbourne, and finally in and around Melbourne, of which more later.

Although July and August are Australia's winter months, the weather was generally so mild that it was understandable why camellias everywhere were in bloom and why, with 12 months' growing season, camellias grow so well and frequently achieve tree size. Magnificent blooms were the rule. It was also striking that camellias were grown everywhere as garden shrubs, replacing roses in many cases in popularity. Most varieties known in the United States are found in the nurseries and gardens as well as many varieties developed in Australia, into which camellias were introduced in 1831.

At the opening meeting of the Conference July 28, cables were read from Mr. Charles Puddle, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Camellia Society, who regretted his inability to be present and who wished the Conference well, and from CSPV members Ann and Milton Brown who also sent their regrets and their good wishes. It was recalled then and on other occasions during the Conference that it had been Ann Brown who had originally suggested at the Stresa International Camellia Conference that the International Camellia Society should hold its next conference in Australia

in honor of Prof. E. G. Waterhouse, President of I. C. S. and Australia's most distinguished camellia lover and developer.

At the same session, Dr. John Pedler, President of the Australian Camellia Research Society, under whose sponsorship the I.C.S. was being held in Australia, welcomed the guests. Prof. E. G. Waterhouse followed with a welcome from the I.C.S.

One of the program's combination of scenery and camellias included, on the second day of the Conference, a morning visit to the historic colonial mansion of Vaucluse House, home of Sir William Charles Wentworth, an early Australian statesman. The mansion was filled with furniture, rugs, other antiques, and costumes of the early period. In the beautiful gardens surrounding the mansion, now a national monument, were many fine old camellias including a tree of 'ASPASIA', one of Australia's earliest camellias.

The outstanding event of the day, however, was the visit to the E. G. Waterhouse National Camellia Garden of several acres with about 1500 camellia plants already planted under the sponsorship of the Sutherland Shire Council. Although the first plantings had been made in 1969, it was officially created by the Shire Council in 1970 as its contribution to the Australian Bicentennial. One of the notable sights is the Elizabeth Cook Fountain, believed to be the only memorial to the wife of Captain Cook.

During the visit, the A. W. Jessep Sasanqua Garden with 98 sasanqua

plants was dedicated as a section of the Waterhouse Garden. Mr. Jessep planted a sasanqua in honor of the occasion. Four japonicas were also planted, honoring the four major delegations. Dr. Pedler planted, on behalf of Australia, an old Australian favorite, 'CHARLES HENTY'. For New Zealand, Leslie Jury of New Plymouth and Dr. Brian Doak of Auckland planted an 'ELEGANT BEAUTY', developed by Mr. Jury. Prof. Haruya Shimida of Kyoto planted a 'BENTEN'. Mr. William Goertz of California and Mr. William Kemp of Goldsboro, N. C. planted for the U. S. a 'MONA MONIQUE', named for Mrs. Ralph Peer. Following the delightful barbecue lunch in the Gardens, the Conference guests returned to Sydney by a scenic drive through the National Park and along the Illawarra Coast.

The colorful and justly famous camellia paintings and prints by the celebrated camellia artist Paul Jones were the subject of an exhibition of his work, entitled "The Magic of Camellias" at the Blaxland Galleries. Mr. Jones was present at the show, which was opened by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman Griffin, and the Lady Mayoress, and discussed the paintings on display. A collection of four prints of his latest paintings, honoring the International Conference were made available to members of the Conference at the display and throughout the Conference, Mr. Jones in speaking of the collection of prints, expressed the opinion that these prints were as perfectly produced as any prints he had ever known.

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