

# Carolina Camellias



'Martha Israel'

*C. japonica* seedling of Ferol & Sam Zerkowsky

Color picture Courtesy of The American Camellia Society

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# Carolina Camellias

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

Mrs. Rosemary Elliott, *Editor*, 1108 Peachtree Place, Wilson, N. C. 27893.  
Carroll and Pearle Moon, *Editors Emeritus*, P. O. Box 71, Springfield,  
Phone: (919) 291-5345.  
S. C. 29146

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# SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## *President's Message*



WILLIAM C. ROBERTSON

DEAR MEMBERS:

By the time this issue of *Carolina Camellias* reaches you, the '77-78 season will have ended. Mildred and I have attended a great number of shows this year and the reports we received from the various show chairmen indicate an increase in exhibitor participation as well as an increase in overall attendance. There seems to be a renewed interest in this rewarding hobby, therefore, I would like to suggest that if you know someone who is interested, that you either give him a membership or sell him a membership in the SCCS. Dues are only \$5.00 and all '78 issues of *Carolina Camellias* will be sent to him.

The spring meeting of the SCCS will be held in conjunction with the Mid Carolina Camellia Society's annual picnic. All of you who attended last year will remember the fun we had and we sincerely appreciate their kind invitation to join them again this year. Further information concerning this meeting will be found elsewhere in this issue. I urge all of you to plan to attend and give the SCCS your full support. I can personally guarantee you a good time.

I feel very honored to have been elected your president for the coming year and am privileged to serve. I hope by the time you read this that I will have seen each of you somewhere along the "Camellia Trail" this year and will be looking forward to seeing you again when the season begins next year.

WILLIAM C. ROBERTSON

# NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## *President's Message*



LEWIS M. FETTERMAN

It is an honor to serve you, the members of The North Carolina Camellia Society—a group of people enjoying together the company of each other and the Camellia bloom in all its splendor.

The next North Carolina Camellia Society meeting will be held in conjunction with the Greensboro, North Carolina Spring Show which will be located in the beautiful setting of the Four Seasons Mall on March 11 and 12, 1978. Please make your plans now to attend.

I trust that the winter will not be too severe on the outside plants as the outside blooms are the catalysts for new members in our clubs.

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 grow and become more meaningful to all of us.

Our best to all

LEWIS M. FETTERMAN

"Love cures people—both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it."

—DR. CARL MENNINGER

# VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## *President's Message*



LEE E. MYERS

DEAR FRIENDS:

The 1977 season ended with our excellent fall show at Pembroke Mall, many new members were enlisted and the show blooms were outstanding. We now look forward to an even better 1978 season, beginning with workshop meetings and our Annual Spring Show which will be held March 18th and 19th at the Botanical Gardens Auditorium in Norfolk.

To our many friends and members we cordially invite your participation in this gala event. Plan on being with us and make this season a year for remembering.

Sincerely,

LEE E. MYERS

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# Air-Laying of Camellia-Why, What, When and How

(from the Newsletter—Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley)

A frequently visited presentation at the Society's educational and camellia culture exhibits, was that relating to the propagation of camellias by air-layering of which Mr. William E. Sette was in charge. Mr. Sette had arranged at his exhibit a series of cards carrying a succinct tabulation of the essential information on the advantages of air-layering. What and When, Tools and Materials, Procedures, and Post-Operative Procedures. Mr. Sette states that cards were based largely on material in an article on air-layering by CSPV member Ed Tolson which appeared some time ago in the *Newsletter*. In the belief, however, the information so ably condensed and outlined by Mr. Sette would be of interest to the present readers, the material on the cards is given below.

## I—*Advantages of Air-Layering.*

1. Makes use of branches that you may wish to prune off or to preserve, such as sports.
2. Results in larger plants than those obtained from cuttings.
3. Requires minimal attention.

## II—*What and When.*

1. A healthy branch which the plant can spare.
2. Diameter of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or more.
3. Length less than 2 feet.
4. Best time is April through early May.

## III—*Tools and Materials.*

1. A sharp knife.
2. A small brush.
3. Root-inducing hormone powder like *Hormodin* or *Rootone*.
4. Coarse Sphagnum moss.
5. A container of water.
6. 8-inch squares of plastic sheets.
7. 5-inch lengths of twistem.

#### IV—*Procedures.*

1. Soak moss in water.
2. With knife cut ring around branch near place of expected detachment.
3. Widen cut 1 to 1½ inches along branch.
4. Slit bark and underlying cambium layer (green) lengthwise.
5. Peel off bark and cambium.
6. If necessary, scrape off any remnants of cambium.
7. Dust exposed area with hormone powder.
8. Squeeze (hard!) water from a good handful of soaked moss. Sprinkle some hormone powder on moss.
9. Pack moss in a ball enclosing cut area, overlapping onto bark.
10. Wrap plastic around moss tightly.
11. Tie twistems around ends of plastic to seal moss and cut area of branch.

#### V—*Post-Operative Procedures*

1. During summer inspect ends (of plastic) for tightness.
2. If ball turns green or water has collected inside of plastic, gently squeeze out excess moisture.
3. In later August or early September roots should be visible.
4. Cut branch off *below* ball and prune any undesired side branches.
5. Remove twistems and plastic wrap. Avoid disturbing ball and roots!!!
6. Plant in container for inside care or for a cold frame. Plant in ground in highly sheltered areas only.
7. If no roots have been formed, remove ball and plant as above. If callouses have been formed, operation may yet be successful.

## **In Memoriam**

Hansel C. Beeson, Sr.

Mrs. Charles Butler

Matt Lawson

W. E. Sellers

# Design of Electrically Heated Hot Beds

By JAMES E. McCORMACK

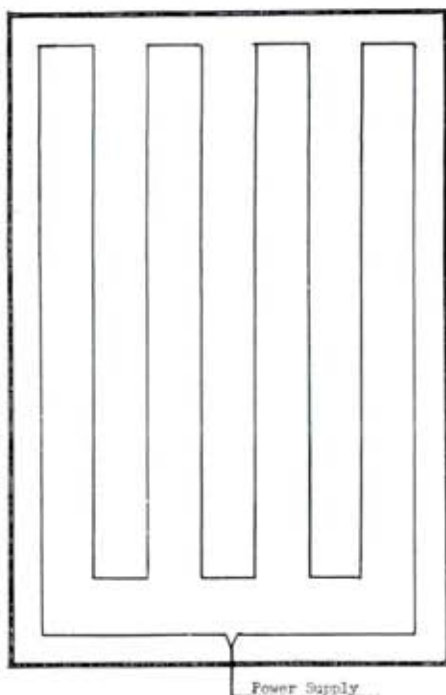
(from the *Newsletter*—Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley)

Thermostatically controlled electric bottom heat in a propagation bed provides an ideal soil environment for the rooting of camellia cuttings. Controlled bottom heat is also desirable when germinating and growing many kinds of seeds.

Attempts to lay out a long heating cable so that the soil temperature will be reasonably uniform in the bed can be an extremely frustrating experience. The instructions accompanying heating cables when purchased offer only general directions on such matters as suitable spacing of the heating wires and the total area that the cable can cover under various ambient temperatures. None that I have seen has indicated the dimensions of the beds that the cable will fit into neatly as shown in the diagram on this page. The only exceptions are the commercial cables designed specifically for 3' x 6' beds.

An ideal layout as shown in the diagram provides a uniform distance between the heating cable wires, with half that distance between the edge of the bed and the outside heating wires.

A mathematical analysis of the layout diagram fortunately can be reduced to a very simple formula. The formula or procedure for determining



the dimensions of the bed and the layout of the cable is as follows:

1. Measure the length of the heating cable, excluding the power supply cord.
2. Divide the measured length of the heating cable by a whole even number that gives you a desired length for the bed. Use that length for your bed.
3. To obtain the width for the bed, multiply the desired separation of the heating wires by the even num-

ber you used in determining the length of the bed.

The cable may be held in place with tape or with nails (preferably copper or aluminum) at the inside corners of the bends in the cable. The cable may be molded into shape while heated

and will tend to stay in position when current is cut off.

The junction of the heating cable and power supply need not be where shown above, but may be at any point where it would not result in the crossing of heating or power supply cables.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

## Help Wanted

We, of the Southern California Camellia Council want to establish as complete a Miniature Camellia Garden in the Descanso Gardens, in

Southern California, and are in need of scions for the following Miniature Camellias.

Autumn Surprise  
Dimples  
Dr. Bob  
Joni Sans  
Mens' Mini  
Minor League  
Secchuka  
Billy Gates  
Lilemac  
Pink Perfume  
Crowning Glory

Brozzoni Nova  
Dolly Dyer  
Four Bits  
Leonora Taylor  
Mini Pep  
Mrs. Rosa Murray  
Minute  
Homer Fritche  
Miss Lucy  
Lisa Cashion  
Jack Sprott

Pauline Nielson

If you have, or know of anyone that has a blooming plant for any of the above varieties will you please write me:

Ernest E. Pieri  
601 East Elm Avenue  
San Gabriel, California 91775

as soon as possible so that I can contact the person having plant, asking

for scions to be grafted on understock, to add to our Miniature Camellia Collection.

Sincerely yours,

ERNEST E. PIERI  
*Chairman of Miniature  
and Small Camellia  
Garden Committee.*

# Why Do We Have Flower Societies?

(Excerpts from a talk made by JUDGE PAUL HARKEY of Dallas to the Shreveport Men's Camellia Club (from *Gulf Coast Camellias*))

The purpose of a group organized by people who have a specific non-commercial interest and are proud owners of like things, whether it be horses, dogs, roses, orchids or camellias is two-fold: We wish to share the knowledge gained from our failures and our successes in the object of our interest. We want someone else to join us in sharing the beauty of what we have accomplished. The only reason we have rock shows, dog shows or camellia shows is to make it convenient for all of us to join in a central location and do on a wholesale basis what we do person-to-person in our own neighborhoods. If such a society is not pleasant, not enjoyable, not fun, it has no reason to exist. I cannot conceive of people who are so mean they will continue to met with others in a group filled with unkind rivalry, bitterness, strife over who holds what office, or in the absence of kindness, friendship, sharing and fun.

*Fun* is what a camellia society is all about! Fun which is real pleasure, not mere temporary gratification. Above all else, there can be no pleasure where there is not mutual respect, sharing and love! Some flower societies have so much competition and so little sharing they rig their rules so specific groups of members will have advantages over others when they have monthly or annual competitions.

In your societies stress sharing your knowledge with those less capable. Support those who are struggling. Encourage and recruit younger people to become members. We might have eventually joined the Dallas Camellia Society, but the first show we attended after we owned two camellia plants, Elizabeth Malone invited us to join then! She said the Society needed us even if all we could do was carry tables and pour water at the annual show. We joined because she told us we were needed and asked us to join.

Year before last two 14-year old boys joined our Dallas Society. Those boys, now 16, have made every one of us a more dedicated member by our efforts to encourage them, share with them and make them be needed by us. Our towns are full of young and older people who can benefit from associating with us almost as much as we can benefit from our association with them. I can think of nothing sadder than being restricted in my friends to a group *only my age*.

As a court judge, I am forced either by law or by my professional conscience to belong to many organizations and societies. The American Camellia Society is the only one of those in which I feel I am receiving full benefit from my membership. The Texas Bar Association has a new three million dollar building in Austin with four floors of employees. All I get

worthwhile out of it is a card when I pay my annual dues. The Oklahoma Bar Association has its white limestone building with 11 full-time employees servicing less than half the membership of the American Camellia Society.

In our beautiful, modest headquarters on a farm-to-market road south of Fort Valley, Ga. we have a secretary-emeritus who serves without pay, our Secretary (and his wife), three ladies and two elderly gardeners. For our annual dues we receive an outstanding periodical, a most helpful yearbook and all the assistance in the world in the conduct of any type camellia show we are willing to undertake. Our headquarters is not equalled anywhere in the world for beauty, modesty and efficiency. It represents a true labor of love and sacrificial giving on the part of those who love beauty and love their fellow men who also love beauty. Most of us do not do enough to solicit others to join the American Camellia Society — we should be giving our friends gift memberships and hope they will renew them each year. We should be giving gift memberships to all of our high school libraries and high school horticulture departments.

What is there about the camellia which would make an "old boy" like me become a "camellia nut" instead of raising roses, day lilies or dwarf fruit trees?

Their first attraction is the foliage which is with us 12 months of the year. Examination of the foliage of camellia varieties immediately dis-

closes the great diversity of leaf shape and size, the different serrations of the margins, the varied intricacies of the veins, their diverse arrangement on the branches and above all, the handsome, shiny, clean-looking appearance of both surfaces.

They come in almost every shade of green. They are a perfect background plant for all other plants. There is a camellia variety for every need in the grounds and in the garden. There are tall, upright growers; some almost columnar. Others are bushy, right down through the intermediate heights to dwarf spreading varieties ideally suited for the small border or even for ground cover. Some have long, willow-like growths, while others are very stocky and bushy. *Sasanquas* and *reticulatas* lend themselves to wall culture and espalier. As specimen plants or in groups, they are equally pleasing. Even if they never flowered, their value as foliage plants is tremendous.

Blooms of the camellia vary in size from single petal blossoms the size of the tip of your little finger to those as large as a dinner plate and half-a-foot high. The color presents every possible variation and combination of white and red. The configuration ranges from the single row of petals to double formals and some with peony centers with rabbit ears which reach out to tickle you. Most of the blooms have no fragrance—the breeders are working on this.

The popularity of the camellia has waxed and waned since its introduction into England in the late 17th century. Only in the past half century

have the names of some 5,000 varieties of the species *Camellia Japonica* been standardized. One of the joys to a camellia lover, as contrasted to aficionados of other flowers, is that our Nomenclature, published in alternate years, is a most reliable index and description of all the varieties. Of interest is that it is currently undergoing a drastic revision with obsolete, rare and obscure varieties being dropped.

In addition to the beauty of the foliage and the blooms, is the fact that the camellia breaks out in a riot of color during the cool months when

it may be the only "plant-in-town" which is displaying any color. It has a unique fascination for the male of the species and somehow through the centuries, the culture of the camellia has continued to be dominated by men.

Competition and winning are not the "all-to-end-all" of life, but it does put a zest into the striving and accomplishment. When each of you watch a bud mature and have it in its prime or embalmed to preserve what was its prime and take it to a show, I sure do hope that your bloom wins.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

## Mid-Carolina Meeting

The Mid-Carolina Camellia Society has again invited members of the SCCS to have their spring meeting in conjunction with their annual picnic. Make your plans now to attend this fun event.

Due to the enthusiasm generated by the plant raffle at the annual fall

meeting, we have been asked to repeat this at the spring meeting. Each person is requested to bring plant or plants to be raffled off in a "Plant Raffle Bonanza". Further information concerning the time and place of the meeting will be sent to you by letter as soon as final details are completed.

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# No One Is More Dedicated Than A Camellia Fancier

By GUS TRAVIS

There's one breed of humans completely immune to the vicissitudes of this turbulent world. They are the camellia growers, and all they're interested in is developing a new variety.

I never saw such a dedicated bunch of men as those I encountered at the recent Men's Camellia Club show at South Park. This spectacular show had entries all over the Southeast and other areas as far away as Mississippi.

Around among the exotic blooms darted many guys I know, some of them almost foaming at the mouth over some prize winning exhibit. I saw doctors, lawyers, businessmen, politicians and sundry big shots who couldn't care less about what has been happening in Vietnam, as long as they had some camellias to concentrate on.

I spotted Graem Yates, past president of the club, and managed to pull his nose out of a fantastic looking camellia.

"Graem," I said, "what the heck is going on here? Looks like I've stumbled into a bunch of wild men."

"These displays are enough to set anybody wild," he said. "Do you know anything about camellias?"

When I confessed my ignorance he seemed overjoyed at the chance to

get a new camellia convert. He led me to a nearby bench and gave me a lecture on camellias that would have made any botany professor sit up and take notice.

"The camellia originally came from Japan," he pointed out.

"So did my dishwasher and radio," I replied. "Looks like everything came from Japan."

He was so engrossed in his subject he ignored me and continued, "At first camellias were either red or white. They were called Japanese rose. But years ago camellia fanciers learned how to grow crossbreeds. Now every grower is trying to produce a new variety that will take first prize somewhere. You can see the results in this show."

He paused to get his breath, then went on, "In the exhibits here you'll see 'Miss Charleston' and—"

"Now you're getting down my alley," I said. "You've also got a beauty show on?"

"'Miss Charleston,'" he snapped, "is the name of a camellia. Then you'll see the 'Francie L. Carter's Sunburst,' 'Mary Alice Cox,' 'Debutantes,' 'Gladys Pinkerton,' and over on that table to your left is a display of 'Rebel Yells,' which look just like a peppermint cake."

I looked where he pointed and exclaimed, "I'll say they look like peppermint cakes! There're four kids trying to eat them!"

Graem was horrified.

"Call the security guards!" he shouted. "They're eating up the prize winners!"

One of the men called the guards and in no time they skidded up and shoved the kids away from the 'Rebel Yells.' One of the guards, I later learned, was Herbert Davenport, and the other was Tim Osborne.

Having done their job, they started to leave when Graem yelled, "Come back! They're now at another table nibbling on a 'Carter's Sunburst!'"

The guards ran back, shooed the kids away from the 'Carter's Sunburst,' then they noticed a silver-haired woman pinning a prize win-

ning 'Gladys Pinkerton' on her jacket lapel.

I guess you would have called this shoplifting, but the guards were satisfied to retrieve the 'Gladys Pinkerton' and let the poor woman go.

By that time the members of the Camellia Club were guarding their own entries and shoving the kids away by the dozens. And I can't blame the kids. Nearly every one of the camellias looked good enough to eat.

Well, it was a lot of excitement. In addition to Graem, I saw Terry Tarrant, Dr. Olin Owen, Banks McClintock, who is now president of the men's club, Marret Wheeler, Fred Hahn, Willie Royal and Harry Watson—all in a high state of excitement.

I'm a little dubious about the name of Fred Hahn. That may be the name of a new camellia variety.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

## Potato Rolls

- 1 Cup Mashed Potatoes (Irish)
- 1 Cup Water Potatoes Were Cooked In
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1 Cup Cold Water
- 2 Pks. Yeast Dissolved in Tipid Water, Mix Well, Let Stand In Refrigerator At Least Over Night.

For each cup of liquid add one third cup melted shortening, one tea-

spoon salt, an egg and enough plain flour to make dough consistency of biscuit dough. Cut the rolls whatever size you like, place on baking tins, brush with butter, let rise until twice size—bake at 375 until golden.

(All liquid does not have to be used at once, but the rolls can be frozen and reheated if desired.

RUTH BENSON

## ACS Fall Meeting

Those who were not at Savannah for the mid-November ACS meeting missed a lot. It was treat enough just seeing this historic Georgia coastal city established in 1733 by James Oglethorpe who laid it out in square parks surrounded by graceful homes which have been retained and restored. Then there was the marvelous seafood cuisine, the sightseeing tours, the educational programs and a beautiful camellia show.

Convention-goers were welcomed Thursday evening by the host group, the Men's Garden Club of Savannah, to the Desoto-Hilton where the Hospitality Room, as usual, was overflowing. Friday morning a judges' symposium featured Tom Evans as moderator ably assisted by panelists Marguerite Smith, Dr. Dan Nathan, Joe Pyron and Milton Brown. That evening all attended a dinner at Com-

modore Crowley's Restaurant located below the restored Factor's Row and facing the Savannah River. Here Dr. Walter Homeyer of Macon narrated very humorously the slides he showed of his many camellia crosses and new introductions.

Saturday morning while the show was being readied for judging, Wally Freshwater and Dr. Earl Beatty, both of Fort Valley, gave a very practical demonstration of grafting and then auctioned these new grafts for the benefit of Fight Blight. This was followed by luncheon for all in the hotel's Harbor View Room where many of the ladies went away with prizes.

The concluding event was the banquet Saturday evening at which Dr. William Ackerman of the U. S. Arboretum gave an illustrated talk on his plant exploration trip to Japan and Okinawa earlier this year.



Rosemary Elliott (left) and Eleanor (Mrs. Graem) Yates attended the Fall, 1976 State Meeting of the Garden Club of North Carolina in Elizabeth City. Eleanor is State President for 1977-78.

# A Remarkable Man

By GRAEM YATES

With lighted pipe in hand, the driver steadfastly steered the Ford station wagon through the early morning mist and fog down highway NC-27, headed for the Fayetteville Camellia Show. It was Saturday, March 3, 1973, and as the blackjack oaks and Carolina pines came into focus through the breaking light, the driver turned and said, "Graem, we're gaining on it—all it takes is a little bit of patience and a lot of sticking with it!"

The driver was Dr. Frontis Johnston, and the philosophy could be readily applied to the achievements of this humble and remarkable man.

Frontis Withers Johnston is a native of Summerville, S. C., who graduated from Davidson College in 1930, earned his Ph.D. from Yale in 1938, and returned to Davidson as an associate professor of history. He became a full professor in 1941, and was dean of the faculty from 1958 to 1970. During the summer of 1968 he was acting president of the college, and in 1970-73 he became the first dean of the Honors College. In the fall of 1975 he graciously accepted the position of academic vice-president until the position could be filled more permanently.

Dr. Johnston is a past director of the N. C. Camellia Society, a past president of the Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte, was one of the first to put plants into the ground in his

greenhouse, and grows a monstrous Howard Asper!

His professional honors include president of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, president of the Southern Conference, member of the NCAA Executive Council, moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina, and a long time lecturer at the FBI National Academy.

Dr. Johnston was honored at a retirement dinner April 23, 1977 in a "Salute to the South and One of Her Favorite Sons." Reflecting, he says, his most satisfying experience has been "the opportunity to work with these young people over a long period of time. Also, the association with colleagues, both past and present, has left an indelible impression." He reckons he has taught more Davidson College students than any man who ever lived.

On November 3, 1977, Dr. Johnston received the Hugh McEniry Award. The award annually recognizes "unusual and outstanding service in behalf of higher education."

Lucy and Frontis Johnston's home is blanketed in a grove of stately pines near the Davidson campus, and is landscaped with a formal sunken garden and numerous azaleas and rhododendron.

He divides his time between working in his greenhouses and serving as



Frontis Johnson, 1977

a visiting professor—this year at UN-CC—teaching the course in American History that made a lasting impression on thousands of Davidson students.

With a forty-year career at Davidson plus thirty-five years teaching a

Sunday School Class at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, this pipe-smoking, friendly giant of a man has said it best—"It takes a little bit of patience and a lot of sticking with it!"

### Dates to Remember

Fayetteville, N. C., Fayetteville Camellia Club .....	March 4- 5, 1978
Greensboro, N. C., Men's Piedmont Camellia Club .....	March 11-12, 1978
Norfolk, Va., Virginia Camellia Society .....	March 18-19, 1978
A.C.S. Fall Meeting, Masee Lane, Perry, Ga. ....	November 7-12, 1978

# Camellia Sasanqua Is Cold Hardy In South Carolina

By LUTHER W. BAXTER, JR., and SUSAN G. FAGAN<sup>1</sup>

The winter of 1976-77 has come and gone but some of the effects are still with us. We who enjoy the camellia plant for its beautiful foliage as well as the flowers were somewhat concerned about the fate of our camellias during the unusually low temperatures of January and February 1977.

We have at Clemson hundreds of *C. sasanqua* seedlings which are planted outside so that they are exposed to the full impact of the wind, the cold, and the sun. Many of these 7-to 10-year-old plants have been in the same location since they were planted.

Many of the seedlings suffered no apparent ill effects and have flowered normally in 1977. Other seedlings exhibited either severe damage, characterized by death of the above-ground portion of the plant, or mild damage characterized only by the killing back of some terminal portions without any bark splitting.

These two types of winter injury require some explanation. When plants are fertilized, pruned, and

watered properly, they harden off and are able to survive adverse winter conditions. Pruning promotes growth, and all camellia enthusiasts and nurserymen who have made cuttings during July and/or August (and sometimes as late as September) have probably noticed new shoots emerging from the stems from which cuttings were made. Many times these late new shoots, stimulated to grow by pruning, fail to mature satisfactorily to survive sudden freezes in the fall, particularly if the temperature drops to about 20° F (-6C). Thus, sharp freezes early in the fall can cause plant damage.

Late fertilization, especially with high nitrogen fertilizers, can also stimulate late flushes of growth, if there is abundant moisture. Many times nurserymen in the South fertilize their plants heavily during the summer and early fall to get maximum vegetative growth. Thus a sharp, early freeze occurring in the fall affects plants much the same as late pruning. This affects primarily terminal growth.

The more serious types of cold injury to plants in South Carolina occur in the spring after a brief, warm spell which initiates new plant growth.

<sup>1</sup> Professor and Lab Technician, respectively, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631.

Then a sudden freeze (15-25°F) will tend to kill all or a part of the living portion of the stem and split the bark of camellias near the base. This can result in death of the plant if the stem is girdled or severe stunting of the plant if it is only partially girdled; the latter may require years to overcome.

Another type of injury is associated with death of terminal branches when a flower bud, which occurs at some point on the stem other than the terminal, opens. In this case the entire stem distal to the open flower may die because the food supply of the stem in the vicinity of the flower has become mobilized to feed the open flower; and the stem, without the stored foods, becomes vulnerable to injury caused by freezing.

Generally speaking, camellia plants in a deep state of dormancy, such as during January, can survive rather severe freezes. Several *C. sasanqua* plants (cultivar Sparkling Burgundy and several seedlings) at Long Creek, SC (elevation about 1,200 ft.) survived the winter of 1976-77 without serious cold damage. These plants were protected from early morning sun but not from wind. The lowest temperature recorded in that area was approximately -5° F (-20 C). Thus it would appear that it is not so much the actual temperature that seriously affects the *C. sasanqua* but rather the time when the freezes occur (i.e., whether early, mid-, or late winter).

However, it should not be inferred that the floral buds can withstand the

same low temperature level as can the vegetative buds. Most unopened *C. sasanqua* floral buds are killed when the temperature reaches about 18° F (-8 C). If the ovules have been fertilized however, the developing fruit can withstand the temperatures sustained at Clemson during the winter of 1976-77 (5° F). This is evident since we were able to collect a fair seed crop during the fall of 1977. Seeds collected from many different cultivars at Clemson indicate that the fruit of many *C. sasanqua* varieties can tolerate cold temperatures.

From observations made of several hundred *C. sasanqua* seedlings and many named cultivars, there is considerable variation in cold tolerance. A very few seedlings were noted, such as 77-1, which showed no winter injury and the foliage looked remarkably good all winter. Also, there was an excellent flower bud set during the 1977 season so that early varieties are already blooming prolifically (October 1977). Those seedlings which were frozen back to the ground put on a tremendous flush of growth but set no flower buds.

The experiences of the cold 1976-77 winter, combined with what we know about camellias, would indicate certain precautions that the home owner can do to reduce the chances of injury from cold.

1. Avoid fertilizing camellia plants late in the growing season (after August 1), particularly with high nitrogen fertilizers.

(Continued on page 22)

# In And Around The Greenhouse

By JAMES H. MCCOY, Fayetteville, N. C.

It will soon be grafting time again, so how about a couple of comments on grafting?

What do you do when a graft fails? If you're like most of us, you try again with the same grafting stock. Mr. Fred Hamiter reported back in 1959 that he had good luck just opening the original cleft with a screwdriver and inserting another scion. It would seem to me that a better plan would be to cut a couple of inches off the stump of the stock and make another cleft. At least you'd be starting with fresh green cambium. Usually, if the scion drops its leaves, it means a failure, but not always, especially if the graft has held its leaves for a month or longer. It would be wise to wait until the growth bud on the scion has turned brown. Occasionally you'll be delighted to see it swell and start growing even though the scion has dropped its leaves.

Do you end your grafting season when new growth starts on your plants in February or March? You don't have to. Just take a dormant lateral bud further down on the branch and continue. Or you can use a very juvenile new growth scion. The scion does not have to be mature enough to snap, just enough to permit shaping the wedge. Actually, your takes may be better on grafts done

from March through mid August, as the weather is warmer and warmth is an important element in the grafting process. The only problem, you probably won't get as much growth before cold weather sets in and the plant goes dormant.

Something I'd like to see; the controversy over 'Tammia' and 'Grace Albritton' resolved. It is a shame that these two identical camellias should compete in shows, and often enough, both wind up on the head table. It seems conceivable to me, with all the scion swapping that goes on among camellia exhibitors, that they are one and the same cultivar. If they are, it should be admitted and one or the other name be dropped. I suppose that it is genetically possible for two cultivars to be identical, but the chance must be so remote as to be almost non-existent. I have heard it said that the growth habits of the plants are not the same. I have them both and I can't detect any difference.

Anyone living as far north as the sandhills of North Carolina, who believes that he might be able to grow retics outside, is whistling in the wind. I have found out the hard way. In the Spring of '75, I grafted two retics on plants outside. One was 'Red China' and the other, a cherished retic seedling. Both took and grew well. I de-

cided to leave them outside as they were in a protected place. All the growth buds on both plants were killed. They put out new growth buds when warm weather came, but they were both detrimentally affected. In the Spring of '76, I grafted 5 different retic scions on the same large 'Jean May' sasanqua. They took and put out phenomenal growth, 24 to 48 inches, and well branched. Again, when Winter came, every single growth bud was killed and some of the leaves. They too, have recovered but the growth is deformed and stunted at most terminals.

Everyone knows that there are two picotee camellias, 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' and 'Margaret Davis'. How many are aware that there is another one? It's called 'Shuchuka'—priority name 'Kishu-Tsukasa' according to the current nomenclature book. It is a Japanese cultivar, grown in the States by just a few. One friend who has bloomed it writes, "'Shuchuka' finally bloomed. It is everything I hoped it to be, a white medium size bloom with a dainty pink edge and some interesting pink veining." I predict that this one will be one of the most sought after cultivars of all, as soon as it hits a few show tables.

For those who are contemplating entering the hybridizing aspect of our hobby, I would heartily recommend that you jump in. It will open up a brand new interest more exciting than any other phase of camellia culture.

Ken Hallstone has repeatedly advised against starting at the beginning, which means that the first steps have already been taken. You don't have to use the Yunnan retics to make a retic-japonica cross or a cross of retic and most any other specie. Use the retic hybrids which have the qualities you're seeking. For example, none of the Yunnan retics has so full a peony form as 'Pharaoh'—and 'Pharaoh' is a most satisfactory pollen parent. It will set seed on almost anything. None of the Yunnan retics has so vibrant a color as 'Vallee Kundsén', and 'Vallee Knudson' will set seed with retic pollen, japonica pollen, pollen from the saluenensis hybrids, and probably many other species.

Most camellia seedling losses occur between the time they first send up the plumule and the time they develop four well defined leaves, according to a leading botanist. Frequent spraying with a fungicide is advisable. However, my recent experience with spraying seedlings with a systematic fungicide may have caused alarming results. They began to die, two or three a day. In desperation, since these were controlled crosses, I potted them up in foam coffee cups several weeks before I had planned to. I found all the roots badly deformed, stubby, without feeder roots. I'm not sure that the fungicide caused this, but I have never had this to happen before. Seedlings have grown satisfactorily with minimal losses since they were potted up.

## Hansel C. Beeson, Sr.

Hansel C. Beeson, Sr. of Greensboro, N. C. died in Wesley Long Community Hospital, Sunday May 15, 1977, after an illness of several months.

A native of Randolph County, North Carolina, he attended Guilford College and joined Pilot Life Insurance Company of Greensboro, N. C. in 1923 as a book-keeper. He retired in 1966 as second Vice President of the Company after forty-three years of service.

He liked to work with his hands and excelled not only in accounting of his profession, but had several hobbies as well in which he fashioned fine furniture for his home and for members of his family. He grew some of the finest camellias and had lots of winners in his large greenhouse. Not only did he enjoy growing camellias but gave freely of his time to help others with camellias and greenhouses

or give advice to any one who called on him.

He was a charter member of the Men's Piedmont Camellia Club and had held various offices, including President and Show Chairman. He was active in the Club until several months before his death. He became an American Camellia Society accredited judge and judged in many camellia shows.

He was widely known by nearly every camellia grower and many who exhibited blooms at camellia shows in North and South Carolina and Virginia. We have lost a valued friend and he will be greatly missed by all in the tri-state area.

He is survived by the widow, Mrs. Nellie Jones Beeson, one daughter Mrs. Nellie Allred, and one son, Hansel C. Beeson, Jr., all of Greensboro, N. C. and five grand-children.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

### Camellia Sasanqua is Cold Hardy In S. C.

(Continued from page 19)

2. Grow plants under a moderate pine canopy when feasible.
3. Keep plants well watered during the winter. (Freezing winds dry plants, and when the ground is frozen only a little water is avail-

able to the plant in the top 3 to 4 inches of soil.)

4. Avoid pruning *C. sasanqua* plants after July 4.
5. Transplant newly purchased plants in the fall (early October to mid-November) or early spring (March) rather than during the winter.

# South Carolina Camellia Society Meets In Greenwood

Around eighty persons met for the first meeting of the S. C. C. S. on Saturday, October 29, 1977, in the Holiday Inn. On that bright, balmy day, time lapsing since the Spring meeting was wiped out as camellia buddies eagerly greeted one another, and another Season well underway. Bill Gardner, president of the Western Camellia Society, and general chairman for the Show, welcomed the honored guests, Judges, and members assembled for the buffet luncheon and meeting to follow.

A new feature was added to the meeting when Oliver Mizell conducted a 'late releases' plant raffle. This created some rapid sale of tickets and nine persons carried home some new prize plants and the general treasury became \$200.00 richer in a very short time!

After the Judges were excused to perform their Show duties taking place in the Northside Junior High School, President Bill Robertson called the annual Fall Meeting of the S. C. C. S. to order. When the min-



Big winners of the Fall Greenwood, S. C. Show: Bill Robertson, Best Bloom; Bill Gardner, Best Bloom, Novice Award and Lonnie Timmerman, Sweepstakes.

utes were read and approved, Mr. Robertson introduced the speaker.

"Use of Pesticides and Their Safety" was the topic chosen by Bill Bambrick of Augusta, Georgia. "Proper use of pesticides is the real benefit", said Mr. Bambrick, but "first in importance is the identification of the culprit!" These categories were listed for us: insects (our six-legged foes); snails and slugs (trail blazers); pest animals and weeds (cute critters and sneezes); plant diseases (whatever); and an extra one added—humans! SO—camellia growers—take stock of your own program before grabbing that 'treatment' off the shelf. Appearance of the leaf, tunnels and borings, the fruit and or flower damage, or specimens of that which feeds on men and animal should help in identifying the 'pest'. Mr. Bambrick also said that the use of a pesticide is not the only answer. Introducing natural enemies to control weed growth that competes for plant nutrients—deal with certified nurseries to ensure clean plants—and apply good sense in plant maintenance by always using disinfected tools and pruning paints to seal wounds should be standard practices.

In the speaker's opinion, ORTHENE, a liquid systemic, is recommended as the safest pesticide to use, but, is not to be used wholesale. 2-4-D is advised for weed control. When purchasing any pesticide, read both the large and fine print on all labels, checking the antedotes as well as the instructions for application. Watch those mathematics! Wear protective clothing. Be alert at all times when

using or applying pesticides. What might be balm for you could be poison for someone else!

Mr. Bambrick reminded us that everyone is involved in green survival. Even the smallest grower can adopt good housekeeping practices that can do more to avert problems that lead to the need for using pesticides. As a last comment, our speaker admonished us to not spare the marigolds if we have nematodes!

Many clubs have availed themselves of the certification program being presented in their areas, and which will be necessary for anyone purchasing pesticides. Much of the above information was taken from the pamphlet put out by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture—A P P L Y PESTICIDES CORRECTLY. If you do not carry a license, you will be denied purchase of some pesticides now listed by your local supply store.

To resume the business portion of the meeting, P. D. Rush reported upon the treasury of S. C. C. S. and that we now have 527 members. In response to a request from the president, P. A. Dahlen offered a comprehensive financial picture of S. C. C. S. Since the publishing costs of Carolina Camellias has spiraled beyond anticipated annual income, the Board voted to reduce its publication to just twice a year instead of three times a year. Mr. Dahlen reported upon the License Plate Sales Project, saying that proceeds from it have netted over \$400.00 to date and about 100 plates are still available for sale. Receipts from these sales are being used for special outlays such as memorials and

other donations toward National Projects, etc., relieving a further drain upon the general treasury. The precedent set at this meeting of conducting a raffle will be continued intermittently to pad the treasury, as well as a means of supplying new variety plants for growers throughout the state. A change in the By Laws was read by Geary Serpas as pertaining to Membership—Article III—that portion dealing with dues to read: "not to exceed \$10.00 per annum"—from the formerly stated sum of \$5.00. This action was taken by the Board when it met during the summer.

New Directors elected by members present from their respective areas were M. F. Miller for District I, and Nollie Robinson for District III. Dis-

trict V remains unrepresented, and the Society would so hope that someone from the Sumter area in the state can become represented soon as this district has had no liaison for several years with S. C. C. S.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate which was duly accepted:

*President*—W. C. Robertson, Aiken

*I Vice President*—Oliver Mizell, Elmore

*II Vice President*—Geary Serpas, Summerville

*III Vice President*—Richard Mims, West Columbia

President Robertson adjourned the meeting after thanking Oliver Mizell again for his successful raffle.

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# Fertilizing Camellias Through Irrigation

For convenience make up two Stock Concentrated Solutions. One of these is to be low in nitrogen, for use after new leaf and wood growth has hardened.

## Low Nitrogen Formula

12.5 lbs. potassium nitrate ( $\text{KNO}_3$ )  
17.5 lbs. ammonium ortho phosphate ( $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ )

Dissolve in 50 gallons water. For irrigation use 2/3 gallons of this solution in 15 gallons of water, and feed through an aspirator connection on hose. Aspirator should be one providing 30 to 1 dilution

## High Nitrogen Formula

12.5 lbs. potassium nitrate ( $\text{KNO}_3$ )  
17.5 lbs. ammonium ortho phosphate ( $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ )  
20 lbs. ammonium nitrate ( $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ )

Dissolve in 50 gallons water, and use in 1/2 gallon portions added to 15 gallons water, then fed through a 30 to 1 aspirator. Can use as much as 1 gallon to 15 gallons for more extreme force feeding.

PH is highly important. Therefore it is a must to check PH of your water. If it is higher than 6.0, a correction can be made by adding a

*small* amount of phosphoric acid to the stock concentrated solutions. This may be as much as a pint. Then check the PH of the diluted water at the end of the hose. The best PH range is 4.5 to 6.0.

The above method of fertilizing is safe and too dilute to cause burning even if applied directly to foliage. It has been in use for more than 30 years to the exclusion of all other fertilizers. Feed once a week to plants in containers, with one or two pure water feedings between.

## *A Good Dry Type Camellia Fertilizer*

For those who have many camellia plants and want to save on cost, a dry type can be prepared by mixing chemicals and cottonseed meal as follows:

Cottonseed meal	100 lbs.
Superphosphate	125 lbs.
Potassium nitrate	70 lbs.
Aluminum sulphate	35 lbs.
Flowers of sulfur	5 lbs.

This formula is a mild fertilizer that is best utilized often and lightly. During the wood and foliage growing season, feed every 6 to 8 weeks, and the balance of the year at the same frequency, but about 1/3 the amount.

## Greenville, Alabama - "The Camellia City"

Back in September four dedicated camellia couples (the Sansings, Stones, Hicks and Lundys) went to Greenville, Ala. which proclaims itself as The Camellia City but where no show had been held since 1951. Their purpose was to engender interest in reactivating the camellia society begun in the 1930's by H. W. Steindorff, a former GCCS member. (Mark Cannon remembers judging there in 1934.) The ambassadors were very successful as the club was reorganized and a show set for Nov. 12-13.

Back the group went for the show plus a large contingent of neighboring exhibitors and judges. Bob Sansing reports that 27 of those requested came with flowers in spite of the show being on the same weekend as the ACS meeting in Savannah. The show was dedicated to the late Mr. Steindorff, who died about a month before at age 84. The award for the best bloom was given in his memory by his widow and Mr. and Mrs. Henry

Steindorff, Jr. of Montgomery. There were 752 blooms entered and 30 arrangements and to quote Bob Sansing "one of the best fall shows I have attended—much better than either the Greenville or Gulf Coast people hoped for or expected".

Their newspaper publicity extended from Nov. 3 through Nov. 17 with almost daily items and pictures and many of them front page thanks to Mrs. McDonald Plummer, social editor of "The Greenville Advocate" and secretary of the reactivated club. Other officers are Paul Langford, president who was show chairman; Mrs. Oakley McFerrin, vice president and Lt. Col. Chuck Manning, treasurer.

Again quoting Bob Sansing "It will take time to prove it but I believe this will be one of the most productive efforts made by the Gulf Coast since we started our program of assisting local societies".

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# Fall Show At Virginia Beach

The Virginia Camellia Society held its fall show at the Pembroke Shopping Mall, November 4th and 5th, marking for the first time that the event was held in Virginia Beach. The location made it necessary to conform to the shopping center hours so some changes were made in the scheduling. Friday morning November 4th the Show Chairman and helpers were busy setting up the physical props shortly after eight o'clock. All entries were to be in and placed by nine thirty, and at ten o'clock the judges began their tasks. All flowers and props were removed by nine o'clock Saturday night.

Our fall show is more of an educational exhibit than a regular accredited show. We take the opportunity to do some missionary work, to acquaint the public with the flower. Gib and gibbing applicators are sold. A small handout on Camellia care and culture as well as illustrated sketch and instructions for gibbing is available to anyone interested. A table is set up at which enrollments in the American Camellia Society or Virginia Camellia Society are sold, and finally because of the devoted and outstanding effort of dedicated members, plants are available for sale. These plants are air-layers started in the early spring, potted in mid-summer and growing on in gallon containers. Not only does

this present the opportunity to purchase plants at the same time as viewing the blooms, it is also a source of revenue which keeps our Society financially viable.

Our judges, Dot Urquhart, Zelma Crockett, Jack Cronin, and Fred Heutte selected fourteen blooms from the two hundred entered for the head table. Since there were no protected blooms exhibited only three prizes were awarded. Best-in-Show, 1st and 2nd runnerups. The remainder made up the Honor Court and consisted of the following: Allie Habel, Apollo 14, Debutante, Fluted Orchid, Prelude, Little Bit, Mrs. Leroy Epps, Nellie McGrath, Pauline Winchester, Rose Parade and Tinsie. The winners were, Best-in-Show, Nellie McGrath, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Thornton. First runner-up, Nina Avery, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. "Bud" Miller and 2nd runner-up, Christmas Beauty, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grigsby.

The show was considered to be most successful in that sales of plants and gibberelic acid were brisk. It provided the opportunity for literally hundreds of people to view, inquire and learn about the genus Camellia. We hope that the societys' efforts will provide the impetus needed to encourage interest in this outstanding plant.

Dear Rosemary,

I have a terrible problem. It is my dog Sunshine. She continues to snatch grafts from Daddy's camellia shrubs. I have talked this over with him and suggested that he not use his old lunch bags to cover the grafts. I even bought him some new ones. Sunshine likes the new bags as well as the old. Daddy threatens to take her to the dog pound the next time it happens. I think he means it this time. What shall I do?

Susan

Dear Susan,

Run, don't walk to the nearest seed store and purchase a can of Ortho, Scream, Dog Repellent Spray. Have your Daddy spray this on the graft bags and invite Sunshine to smell it. The odor is repulsive to dogs. I'm sure after a few treatments Sunshine will be cured of snatching bags and grafts.

Rosemary

Dear Camellia Friends,

Good heavens to Betsy, look what's happened! Charlie and I have assumed the responsibility of being editors of the *Carolina Camellias*.

Our neighbor and friend, Nell, is astatic with joy. She promises her help (and the help of her friend that knows all about camellias). She expects us to soon become as well known as Norman Clature.

Not only will we need Nell's (and her friend's) help but the help of each of you for Charlie and I are beginners in the realm of camellia culture. What with following in the footsteps of the Elliotts and the Moons, we feel that we are toddlers on an exciting new adventure. We sincerely hope that we can keep the quality that was provided by those who preceded us in the publication of the *Carolina Camellias*.

TITA and CHARLIE HEINS

From the Editor . . .

Yes, it's true—Tita and Charlie will be our new editors starting with the October 1978 issue. I'm very excited—knowing *Carolina Camellias* will be in good hands.

Thanks to all of you who so ably assisted me—and said yes when I asked you.

By the way—March and October will be the only *two* issues during 1978.

Have a good camellia year.

It's been a joyous task.

Love,

ROSEMARY

Write to Tita:

Mrs. C. H. HEINS

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