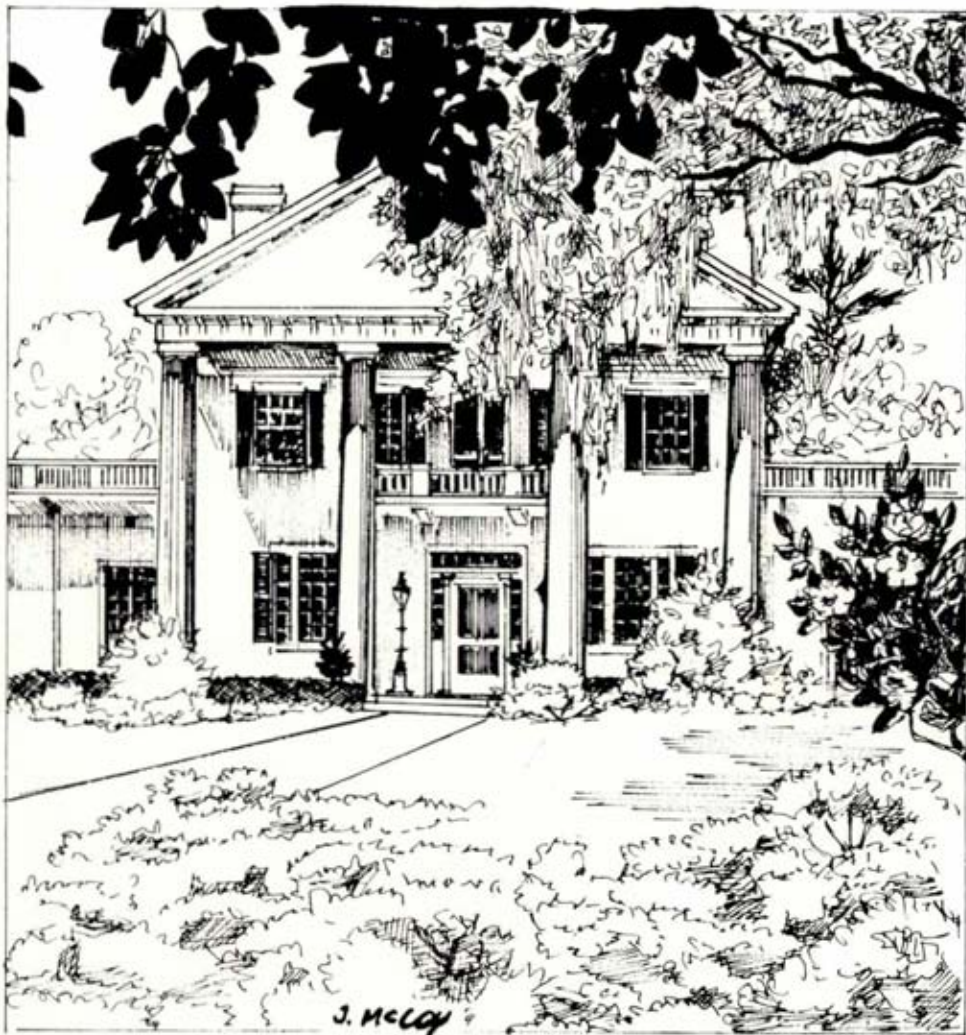


# Carolina Camellias



ORTON PLANTATION, Wilmington, NC

# MY CAMELLIA LOVER

James H. McCoy

Fayetteville, NC

Oh, Garden Spirit, will you grant  
A single wish today?  
I know you have your flowers to plant.  
And have no time for play.  
My angel fair is shut away  
Confined to bed and cover.  
Please let me cut a 'Daik' today  
For my Camellia Lover.

Oh Sprite, this humble human asks  
Another wish of you.  
I know you have your Autumn tasks  
And have your work to do.  
My Angel's leaving soon, I fear  
Despite the ones who love her.  
A 'Debutante' would bring some cheer  
To my Camellia Lover.

Oh Sprite, I come though winds may blow  
And icy cold the rain.  
I know you have to clear the snow  
And plant the flowers again.  
I'll never get another chance  
For o'er her angels hover.  
Please let me take a 'Ville de Nantes'  
To my Camellia Lover.

Oh, Garden Sprite, my fairy queen  
Loved all the flowers I'd bring.  
She seemed to linger just to see  
The garden dress for Spring.  
I thank you for the flowers you gave  
Her soul is gone above her.  
I'll plant a 'Herme' by the grave  
Of my Camellia Lover.

# Carolina Camellias

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

Published by the South Carolina Camellia Society, Inc.

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## Editor's Page



Since I'm not a judge, I can write about judges and judging with impunity. I can praise them without being accused of blowing my own horn, and I can rake them over the coals without having to put a band-aid on my own wounds.

Let me begin by saying that I think we have a very fine corps of judges. I am still amazed at their ability to pick out the best blooms from a display of hundreds or thousands. I say that they rarely make mistakes because, after the judging is over, I almost always agree with their choices. How many times have you heard someone say, "I'd surely hate to be a judge here today and have to pick out the best blooms?" Well, I say it every time I go to a show. I don't see how they do it!

But this is not to say that I think everything concerned with judging is as it should be. Some of the procedures, practices and customs (and perhaps some of the rules) could be and, in my opinion, should be changed.

At one of our shows this year, one of the judges told me before the judging had started, "I know already which is the best bloom in the show." And he mentioned the variety and the exhibitor. He was absolutely right! The bloom he referred to was judged best bloom in the show. This judge, and most of the

others, had watched as the exhibitors put out their blooms. They had seen flowers matched with exhibitors. You'll say, I'm sure, "They couldn't remember which flower went with which exhibitor." Don't you believe that! They are so good till they could describe a flower unerringly, six months after seeing it, even to the number of rabbit ears and fly specks! I believe in the integrity of our judges. I don't believe that it would make any difference in their decisions whether they knew the exhibitor of a bloom or not. But if I were a judge, I don't believe I'd want the condition to exist where some disappointed exhibitor could say (or think), "The judges knew whose bloom that was before they voted for it." I suppose that the ideal would be to prohibit anyone from exhibiting and judging in the same show, and to keep judges out of the bloom preparation area before a show. This is not likely to come about, simply because some judges are fine growers and their flowers would be welcome by any show chairman.

ACS has published a very detailed and comprehensive set of rules and regulations governing procedures and judging of camellia shows (1978 yearbook). I believe that show officials should study these rules and regulations whether



they are judges or not. The judges should review them at the beginning of every show season. If this had been the case last year, at least two embarrassing incidents relative to the use of collars for exhibiting very large blooms could have been avoided. The judges would have refused to become involved in the dispute over whether their use is permissible or not.

So much has been written and said about "look-alikes" being registered and propagated until our judges are very reluctant to encourage the registration and propagation of any seedling by awarding it the ACS Provisional Commended Seedling Certificate. I would commend them for their insistence on high standards for these awards. But sometimes a seedling that is definitely deserving, one that will definitely make some new and valu-

able addition to those varieties already in commerce, is passed over for this award. I remember one seedlings that I considered so lovely and so interesting till I found myself returning again and again to admire it! I spent so much time at the seedling table till I missed seeing most of the other blooms. I won't reveal which seedling this was because the judges' decisions must be considered final and fair. But I plead with you judges, when you do run across a seedlings that ought to be in commerce, then help it along by awarding it the Provisional Commended Seedling Certificate. Now, I may never have the opportunity to grow and enjoy that gorgeous seedling that so fascinated me because you did not encourage the originator to register and propagate it!

## Camellia Festival

Bonnie Serpas

Charleston, SC

Coastal Carolina Camellia Society and Magnolia Plantation and Gardens are pleased to announce the first Camellia Festival on Sunday, November 6, 1983. It will be held in the historic Magnolia Gardens, between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 P.M. Blooms for the accredited American Camellia Society Camellia Show will be accepted from 8:00-11:00 A.M., and the judging will begin at 11:30 A.M. The show will be open to the public at 1:00 P.M.

The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society is proud that the Charleston area will be able to host three Camellia Shows in one year.

We hope that by staging a show in these natural settings, we will generate new interest in using the camellia for landscaping and therefore promote a new generation of

camellia enthusiasts. The gardens will be open to the viewing public at reduced gate admissions for families to come and picnic, stroll through the gardens and view the beautiful camellias both in the show and on the bush, and to spend a relaxing afternoon together enjoying the music and other activities of the festival.

Exhibitors, Judges, and camellia show workers will be admitted free of charge to the gardens and festival. Admission will be charged to tour the plantation house. Mr. Drayton Hastie, proprietor of Magnolia Gardens, will graciously donate the profits to the American Camellia Society.

Mark your calendar today and note that this is a Sunday show only. Make plans to spend a day with us in historic Charleston.

# Presidents' Messages

## SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



This is my last president's letter, and I would like to thank you all for your support. Specifically, I would like to thank publicly Jim McCoy for the outstanding job as editor, writer of many articles, artist, chief reminder and general overseer of "Carolina Camellias". Jim has certainly made my term as president a lot easier and more enjoyable.

I hope all members of South Carolina Camellia Society will continue giving their support by participating and helping to promote the new Camellia

Festival to be held at Magnolia Gardens on November 6, 1983. We feel that our new camellia generation will be spawned by reviving the use of camellias out of doors.

Best wishes to the new slate of officers and I look forward to seeing all of you on the camellia trail this fall.

Geary Serpas, President

## NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



This has been one of the best years for outdoor camellias that I can remember. When you consider how bad the weather was in so many other sections of the country, we should count our blessings.

There is nothing new to report on the state of North Carolina Camellia Society. At the appropriate time we will call a meeting and let the members decide. As most of you know, a proposal was made at the last meeting (in Myrtle Beach last year) that the society be dissolved.

Now, I would like to say something about this fine publication, "Carolina Camellias". There is the definite possibility I have heard that this will be the last year of its publication. We can't let that happen! However, no one knows how the chips may fall in the resolution of the problems that the camellia organizations seem to have. I feel that it is imperative to maintain this vital link.

I feel sure that I'm speaking for all the members when I say that I look forward to the interesting, informative articles in every issue. In this uncertain world, let's make certain that "Carolina Camellias" continues to be a breath of fresh air!

Roger Martin, President



## VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



We have placed tremendous importance this year on a "Keep 'Em" program, which I believe is vital to the growth of our society, the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, and most important, our American Camellia Society.

When camellia growers, new and old alike, forfeit their membership, it's an indication that the societies have failed to sustain the enthusiasm these men and women exhibited when they became members. Our theme during my tenure as president of

The Virginia Camellia Society, has been to **SHARE THE VISION OF SERVICE**, and it would seem that our former members are those with whom we failed to share this vision. Our ability to meet growing needs and to achieve our program objectives **DEPENDS GREATLY UPON HOW WELL WE SHARE THIS VISION** and share with **all** members.

Be certain that each member realizes his or her talents are needed and appreciated. Communication with all members helps to bring about new talents and interests. Take an interest in one another's families. If you are an officer, make sure that every member has a **meaningful assignment**.

It is the responsibility of each president and director to be on the alert throughout the year for situations which could result in service to others, our communities and societies. Acting decisively when problems arise that would cause any member to drop when the new fiscal year begins. "Keep 'Em" is a term which may have been borne by other organizations, but one whose meaning and spirit can easily take root anywhere on earth.

Recent figures show in 1981 a slight increase in new members for A.C.S., the first increase in five years, and we are expecting that this increase will become a continuing process.

Our potential for service is virtually unlimited. But, to achieve objectives in meeting community and human needs will require strong and vibrant societies, societies which are continually being infused with new blood through younger membership gains and which are providing everyone with incentives for maintaining their membership.

Share the vision and we will "Keep 'Em". Share the vision and we will easily reach "Young America" and beyond, enabling our American Camellia Society to increase its stature as one of the strongest forces in keeping America beautiful and finding new rewarding avenues of making new friends through the beauty and culture of camellias.

Cecil Sears, President

## NOTICE

At their meeting May 7 in Columbia, the officers of South Carolina Camellia Society voted reluctantly to levy a charge of 50c for each change of address that is required for Carolina Camellias. The Society has always absorbed this cost, but costs of everything have risen so until it is getting more and more difficult to stay afloat. This is actually just passing along the charges of the mailing service.

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# INOCULATION OF SUSCEPTIBLE SEEDLINGS OF CAMELLIA SASANQUA, AND ISOLATION AND GROWTH OF GLOMERELLA CINGULATA, THE FUNGUS RESPONSIBLE FOR CAMELLIA DIEBACK AND CANKER\*

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

Many fungi can be isolated from diseased or dead stems. Few organisms can attack healthy stems, such as camellia stems, but many can decay dead stems. These fungi that are isolated must be tested to find out if they are plant parasitic pathogens (capable of causing disease) or saprophytes (living only on dead material). This is a never-ending problem with plant pathologists. A second problem is that there may be a mixed culture (two or more fungi growing from the same

stem) so again the exact identity has to be made. Purification of a single micro-organism (in this case a fungus, *Glomerella cingulata*) is a more difficult and sometimes time consuming task but basically it involves isolating one single spore (reproductive unit) and growing it in isolation.

A culture of *Glomerella cingulata* was recovered by laboratory techniques from a canker on a branch of an unnamed *Camellia sasanqua* seedling in the fall of 1982 (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Canker on *Camellia sasanqua* caused by *Glomerella cingulata*.



Fig. 2. Isolate (fungal growth of *Glomerella cingulata* obtained from the *C. sasanqua* canker shown in Fig. 1).



Fig. 3. Inoculation of *C. sasanqua* stem with *Glomerella cingulata* through knife wound. (Note culture from which the inoculum (bits of the fungus) came and the needle used for placing it on the wounded stem).



Fig. 4. Completed inoculation of *C. sasanqua* made with moist cotton held in place - 10/25/82.

The next step was to determine whether or not this isolate was the fungus that causes dieback and canker. This paper is a pictorial presentation of the method used to isolate the fungus and to prove whether or not it is virulent (capable of causing disease on camellias).

Inoculations were made with the *Glomerella cingulata* isolate from a *Camellia sasanqua* seedling (Fig. 2) on 10-25-82 onto five seedlings of *C. sasanqua* through knife wounds made on the main stems (Fig. 3). The inoculation is complete when moist cotton is fastened to the plant

(Fig. 4). One of the plants died in February and this particular one died in mid-March (Fig. 5) about 5 months after inoculation. The other three seedlings are alive but infected. These plants were grown in a greenhouse where the minimum temperature was maintained at 70 F (21 C); the maximum temperature was variable (70-90 F). Below the lesion on the dead stem (resulting from inoculation in October, 1982), new shoots were arising. Where the bark was scraped away, the dead tissue, resulting from fungal invasion, was clearly visible. The lesion



Fig. 5. *C. sasanqua* seedling killed by infection by *G. cingulata*. Inoculation 10/25/82; photographed 3/25/83. Note new growth below the inoculation.



Fig. 6. Lesions (dead tissue) on *C. sasanqua* stem resulting from inoculation with *G. cingulata*. Note lesion is about 2 inches from top to bottom where healthy tissue is evident. (Note the new shoots are arising from healthy tissue below the lesion).



Fig. 7. *C. sasanqua* wound (not inoculated) which has healed. Wounded 10/25/82; photographed 3/25/83.

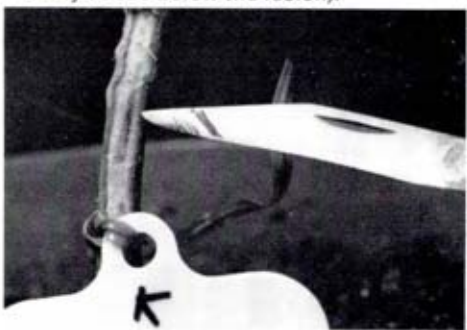


Fig. 8. *C. sasanqua* stem (shown in Fig. 7) scraped to show healthy tissue. Only a dark line of the original wound remains. (Not inoculated with fungus.)



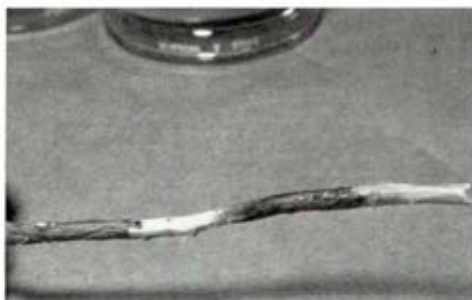


Fig. 9. Dead stem of *C. sasanqua* scraped to show extent of lesion caused by *G. cingulata* and flamed to sterilize the surface. (Flame does not show since it was dipped in alcohol and the alcohol flame is difficult to show.)



Fig. 11. Diseased chips of the *G. cingulata* lesion placed on sterile carrot juice agar in sterile Petri dishes.

(dead tissue) extended more than 2 inches from top to bottom (note healthy tissue) (Fig. 6). A healthy, fully recovered wound on another plant is shown (Fig. 7) and when it is scraped, only the remnants of the original wound are visible (Fig. 8). This plant was wounded but not inoculated and thus served as a control. The dead plant was cut off so as to remove all of the discolored wood and then the severed top (with the discolored wood) was taken to the laboratory. With all the diseased tissue removed, a healthy new plant will arise. The base of the branch was further scraped, exposing the lesion (all discolored wood), dipped in alcohol, and then flamed (Fig. 9) although the alcohol flame is not visible. Next, under aseptic conditions (using both a sterile knife and forceps), chips of the discolored wood were cut and removed (Fig. 10) and placed aseptically in Petri dishes on sterile carrot juice agar



Fig. 10. Chips of the *G. cingulata* lesion on the *C. sasanqua* stem removed with the aid of sterile knife and forceps.

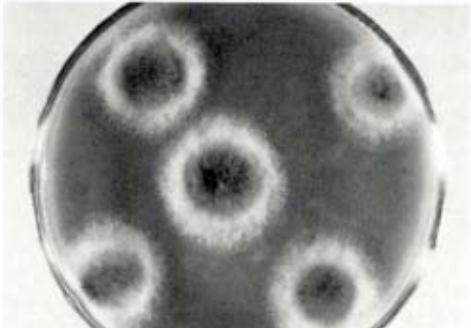


Fig. 12. Five-day-old *Glomerella cingulata* isolates grown on carrot juice agar from the diseased chips.

(Fig. 11). After a 5-day incubation period at 7 F (23 C), the fungus grew out (Fig. 12). This process is called isolation of the pathogen. Confirmation of the identity of the fungus was made by microscopic examination (Fig. 13) which revealed the fungal spores by which it was positively identified (By their fruit, ye shall know them) (Fig. 14). to maintain the virulence, or pathogenicity (ability of the fungus to cause disease in susceptible camellia cultivars), the fungus is transferred from the Petri dish in which it is growing to a fresh, clean Petri dish every 4 to 6 days (average 5 days except weekends) (Fig. 15). For long-term storage of the pathogen, it is inoculated (Figs. 2-5) into a susceptible *Camellia sasanqua* seedling (where it is left for about 5 to 6 months) and then we repeat the process



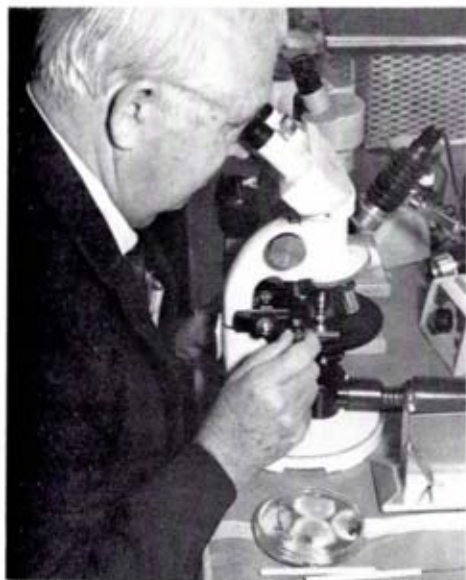


Fig. 13. Microscopic examination of the fungus (lower right) for identification purposes.



Fig. 15. Maintaining the fungus (*Glomerella cingulata*) in culture for future use. Transferred every 3 to 5 days to maintain its purity.

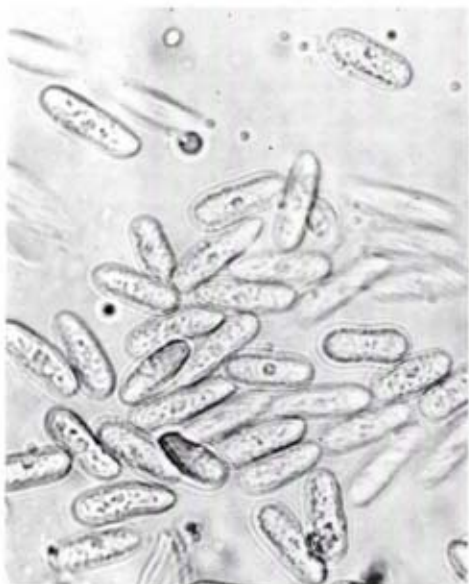


Fig. 14. Spores (seed) of the fungus (*Glomerella cingulata*) as seen through the microscope.

(see inoculation, Figs. 2-5 and isolation, Figs. 9-12).

The reason for maintaining the camellia dieback and canker pathogen for long periods on a susceptible plant (*C. sasanqua*) rather than

repeated transfers from culture dish to culture dish (filled with carrot juice agar) is that this fungus, like many biological systems, will accept welfare and become lazy (non-virulent) or more properly, the mutant (a fast-growing, non-virulent sector) takes over and crowds out the slower-growing, virulent form of the fungus so we make it work for its living - or make it self-sustaining by placing it on a camellia stem, its natural home. Also, in culture it often goes sexual, and camellia growers know that sexual progeny of camellias (seedlings) are not like their parents and so sexual progeny of the dieback fungus may also differ from their parents.

Thus, the safest place to maintain the fungus in a virulent state for future laboratory, greenhouse, or field studies is on its native host, the camellia.

In summary, there are ways and means to isolate a specific organism from diseased tissue. While not needed in isolation of this particular fungus, it may be necessary to add certain antibiotics to keep down too many different fungi or bacteria. However, even when a pathogen, such as **Glomerella cingulata** (the cause of camellia canker, dieback, the graft failure) is recognizable with the aid of a microscope, a specific isolate may not be capable of causing a disease and this can only be proven by placing some of the fungus cells on a wound of a susceptible plant, such as a **C. sasanqua** seedling under proper environmental conditions. For example, if it is too hot or cold or too dry,

the fungus may die before infection of camellia tissue occurs.

Finally, there are ways and means to maintain the fungus for further studies, such as testing a thousand camellia seedlings to find out their relative susceptibility. While it can be maintained in the laboratory in Petri dishes or test tubes, a better way is to maintain it in a live susceptible plant. In this way the fungus has to "work for its living" and does not lose its ability to cause disease.

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\*Supported in part by the Carolina Camellia Society.

Acknowledgment is extended to Dave Lewis of the Clemson University Communications Center for the photography.

## CORRECTION

As a rule, the editor of Carolina Camellias does not publish corrections or apologies for errors. But in the last issue was a small article that caused quite a flap! Several horticulturists, of one specialty or another, jumped on this little article like ducks on a junebug. It was the article entitled "Variety or Cultivar". Apparently they do **not** mean the same thing. The editor regrets wandering off into an area where he is not qualified to be, and regrets not publishing the source of his information. He did not, in order to make the material fit the space available. But Carolina Camellias is not a scientific publication and this matter will not be pursued any further, except to say that our camellias are "cultivars". If you wish to continue referring to them as "varieties", go ahead. Everyone will know what you mean, no one will object, and (as I have just learned) you would not be breaking any International Botanical Nomenclature rule.

CAMELLIA JAPONICAS

CAMELLIA SASANQUAS

LAUREL LAKE GARDENS AND NURSERY, INC.

P.O. Drawer 9  
Salemberg, N.C. 28385  
Phone 919-525-5155

22 miles east of Fayetteville, N.C., 10 miles west of Clinton, N.C.  
One mile east of Salemberg on Laurel Lake Road.



## SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Richard Kwan

Queensland, Australia

In the last few years, the range of what generally is referred to as miniature camellias has increased quite substantially, and articles dealing with miniatures have shown similar increase. The trend away from "the bigger, the better" dictum that had characterised camellia culture during the last few decades reached a high point when in 1981/82 Nuccio's decided to feature four new miniatures among their major new releases.

In Australia, the growing significance of miniatures has also been recognised when Sterling Macaboy, in his recent lavish book, "The Colour Dictionary of Camellias", devoted a separate chapter to them.

My own interest in the growing of miniatures is fairly recent, as until 1978, I did not have a single one in my collection. Now, I have over thirty of these and the list continues to grow with each season; hence this may be a good time to take stock and evaluate their performance and make some comment about their future. However, one point needs to be clarified from the beginning. Brisbane is a sub-tropical city where for six months of the year, the average day temperature hovers over 80 degrees F. The spring and autumn are relatively short seasons and the winter quite mild. Ground frost is rare and the days warm and sunny. Our long, hot, humid summer is a good test on the constitution of a camellia, and when I talk about hardiness, the point of reference is to sun and heat tolerance. My own unscientific opinion is that high tolerance tends to work on both ends of the spectrum, so that the ones that stand our summer well, may also have good cold hardiness. It may be an interesting proposition that can be tested by inter-

ested growers.

Starting with the japonicas, and divided into rough colour categories, I found 'Man Size' to be the most outstanding white in terms of colour clarity and reliability. 'Baby Sis' is also good and its occasional red streak adds interest. 'Kewpie Doll' is a recent acquisition and promises much. 'Tootsie' is on my want list as I have heard good reports about it.

In the two tone white group, I found 'Kitty' to be a satisfactory grower though the late flowering is a decided disadvantage in Brisbane. A good bloom of 'Kitty' is sheer perfection and long lasting, as befit a formal. 'Grace Albritton' and/or 'Tammia' is a strong grower, but difficult to bloom. So far, it has been a big disappointment, but I think it may take time to settle and acclimatise. 'Pink Smoke' is a pretty and intriguing flower, but rather delicate in constitution.

'Chinese Lantern' is a lovely blush pink buttercup shaped bloom, and has the bonus points of perfume and fertility. 'Demi-Tasse' is still settling in and I would reserve judgment for another season. 'Mini-Pink' is another disappointment as it is both slow growing and late flowering. Its place will be taken by 'Petite Rosine' this winter. 'Hopkin's Pink' is bushy and prolific but has the alarming tendency to drop buds. However, its willingness to sport makes up the deficit. Among the deeper pinks, 'Pearl's Pet' is very cute as it is a squat, dome-shaped plant, thereby making it an ideal pot subject. 'Wilamina' is a vigorous, pink formal that has the tendency to incurve, and I prefer it to 'Sugar Babe', which is very pretty but tends to be delicate and slow growing.



There is an abundance of choice in the reds, and though 'Bob's Tinsie' is still my current favourite, it is being hard pushed by 'Cardinal's Cap' and 'Fircone'. The former is similar in shape to 'Bob's Tinsie' but with longer guard petals and a different shade. The latter is distinctive in floral form and aptly named. It would get my nod if it had more vigour. Both 'Black Tie' and 'Baby Sargent' are tops in vigour department. 'Black Tie' can be a little uncertain in opening, while 'Baby Sargent' falls down in the colour department. 'Maroon and Gold' is well known and its colour combination is most attractive. Though sun hardy, it is slow growing and reputed to be hard to propagate. Last but not least is 'Botan Yuki', classified a rusticana, but for all intents, looks like a japonica. It is a real winner for its unique colouring. The yellow in the petaloids being quite intense and the plant is bushy as well as vigorous. I feel sure that this will be a world beater in time.

In Australia, the hybrid miniatures are beginning to make a real impact. With the infusion of species in the breeding, a host of dainty leaved, prolific flowering plants have resulted. I would like to emphasize two main families in this regard. From the gardens of the late Fred Tuckfield came offsprings of 'Cornish Snow'. I have four of these: 'Bellbird', 'Turkish Delight', 'Lollipop' and 'Muriel Tuckfield'. The first two have yet to flower, but 'Lollipop' and 'Muriel Tuckfield' impressed me for quite different reasons. 'Lollipop', with its pink striped blooms, is distinctive and pretty, while I found 'Muriel Tuckfield' to have remarkable weather resistance for an off white bloom. 'Tiny Princess' has produced another line of interesting hybrids, back crossed to japonica. 'Christmas Daffodil'

boasts fragrant, daffodil shaped flowers with trumpets in the middle. From the garden of Tom Savige, comes 'Wirlinga Princess' and it is winning hearts due to its extreme floriferousness. 'Wirlinga Belle' and 'Wirlinga Gem' promise to make further advances from the same world famous camellian. During the last couple of years, two new lines of hybrid miniatures have come from Edgar Sebire, another great name in Australia camellia circles. 'Snow Drop' is a cross between fraterna and pitardii. It has the ability to flower all along the axil and has a long flowering season. It is fertile as well. 'Rosabelle' is a seedling of roseaflora, but has more vigour and a bigger flower than the mother. These two will be much sought after, after they become better known.

New Zealand growers are also among the leaders in this field. From the gardens of Col. and Mrs. Durrant, come 'Prudence' and 'Snippet'. I have seen photos of these and read reports about them. Last season, I was fortunate enough to acquire a graft of each of these. Both are pitardii seedlings, and increasingly, the value of the small leaf pitardii is being recognised in Australia as a source of significant contributions. Some American growers would be familiar with 'Baby Bear', said to be the first true miniature, as its habit of growth has also been miniaturised. 'Baby Bear' promises to open up a new line in miniatures, and I have heard that there is a 'Father Bear' and 'Mother Bear' lurking about, but have not so far been registered. 'Tiny Star' and 'Gay Baby' are more New Zealand contributions and both of these are very attractive and well worth growing.

continued on page 18

# SHOW RESULTS

## *AIKEN CAMELLIA CLUB*

**Aiken, SC January 22-23, 1983**

Best bloom in show: 'Harold Paige', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.  
Best bloom grown in open: 'Elegans Splendor', Parker E. Connor, Jr.  
Best japonica protected, L to VL: 'Tomorrow, Park Hill', Pam Mizzell.  
Best japonica protected, S. to M: 'Margaret Davis',  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.  
Best White japonica: 'Ivory Tower', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.  
Best Seedling: Mrs. William K. Laughlin.  
Best retic or retic hybrid: 'Mandalay Queen', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.  
Best non-retic hybrid: 'Charlean', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.  
Best miniature: 'Tammia', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizzell.  
Best collection of three, same variety: C.T. Freeman.  
Best collection of five, different varieties: C.T. Freeman.  
Sweepstakes protected: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.  
Sweepstakes grown in open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Show Chairman: Mildred S. Robertson

Number of blooms: 686

## *COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY*

**Charleston, SC January 29, 1983**

### Grown in Open:

Best Bloom (Belle W. Baruch Award): 'Elegans Champagne',  
Donald M. Davidson.  
Runner-Up: 'Tammia', Mrs. George Lanier.  
Best 'Miss Charleston': Donald M. Davidson.  
Best White Bloom: 'K. Sawada' J.M. Hayes.  
Sweepstakes: Parker Connor, Jr.  
Runner-up: Donald M. Davidson.

### Grown Protected:

Best Bloom (Julia Frampton Award): 'Silver Cloud',  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fowler.  
Runner-Up: 'Elegans Champagne', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.  
Best 'Miss Charleston': Mrs. J.C. Bickley.  
Best white bloom: 'Dr. Ed', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn  
Sweepstakes: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Teague.  
Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Best Reticulata: 'Harold Paige', Joe Austin.

Runner-Up: 'Lillette Witman', Joe Austin.

Best Seedling: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Watson.

Novice Award: 'Elegans Splendor', E.B. Commier

Show Chairman: Charles R. Grace

Number of blooms: 1143

## CHARLOTTE CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Charlotte, NC February 5-6, 1983

Japonica blooms grown in open:

Best bloom: 'Rena Swick Var', M.E. Edwards.

Runner-Up: 'Miss Charleston Var', M.E. Edwards.

Japonica blooms grown under glass:

Best bloom 2½ to 5 inches: 'Margaret Davis', Fred and Clara Hahn.

Runner-up: 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Joe Austin.

Best bloom 5 inches and over: 'Tomorrow Park Hill Pink',  
Oliver Mizzell.

Runner-up: 'Silver Challice', Robert Edge.

Miniatures:

Best bloom: 'Tammia', Scott Coble.

Runner-up: 'Cinnamon Cindy', George Griffin.

Reticulatas:

Best bloom 2½ to 5 inches: 'Black Lace', M.S. McKinnon.

Best bloom 5 inches and over: 'Francie L', Joe Austin.

Runner-up 5 inches and over: 'Valentine Day Var',  
Fred and Clara Hahn.

Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jury', Joe Austin.

Best Seedling: Paul Scheibert.

Best white bloom: 'Chow's Hang Ling', Joe Austin.

Gold Certificate under glass: Joe Austin.

Silver Certificate under glass: J.W. Holderby.

Show Chairman: Fred Hahn

Number of blooms: 1450

## MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Columbia, SC February 12-13, 1983

Best Bloom in Show (Calder Seibels Award): 'Elegans Champagne'  
Stanley Holtzclaw.

Japonicas grown in open:

Large to very large: 'Helen Bower', Mr. & Mrs. Marion Edwards.

Runner-up: 'Dixie Knight', Parker E. Connor.

Medium to large: 'Sawada's Dream', Parker E. Connor.

Runner-up: 'Ville de Nantes', Albert V. Ewan.

Best white bloom: 'Snowman', M.S. Edwards.

Sweepstakes, Gold: Parker E. Connor.

Sweepstakes, Silver: Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas.

Japonicas grown protected:

Large to very large: 'Silver Cloud', Doris & Robert Fowler.

Runner-up: 'Tomorrow Park Hill', Fred G. Hahn.

Medium to large: 'Sea Foam', Fred G. Hahn.

Runner-up: 'Margaret Davis', Fred G. Hahn.

Best white bloom: 'Silver Challice', Fred G. Hahn.

Best Miniature: 'Runt', Dr. Olin W. Owen.

Runner-up: 'Bon Bon', Graem Yates.

Best small japonica: 'Jessie Connor', Graem Yates.

Runner-up: 'Grace Albritton', Fred G. Hahn.

Best retic or retic hybrid: 'Jean Pursel', Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.



Runner-up: 'Harold Paige', Mr. Jack W. Teague.  
Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jury Var', Doris and Robert Fowler.  
Runner-up: 'Rose Boquet', Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.  
Sweepstakes, protected, Gold: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.  
Sweepstakes, protected, Silver: Mr. & Mrs. Fred G. Hahn.  
Collections:

Best tray of three japonicas: Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Hendrix.

Best tray of five japonicas: Mr. C.T. Freeman.

Best tray of three hybrids: Mr. C.T. Freeman.

Best Tray of five hybrids: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Austin.

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Award (Novice): Mrs. Leone Burnett.

Show Chairman: Jack W. Teague.

Number of blooms: 1276

## **FAYETTEVILLE CAMELLIA CLUB**

**Fayetteville, NC March 5-6, 1983**

Best bloom in show: 'Swan Lake', Robert Fowler.

Best japonica bloom grown in open: 'Donckelarii',

Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Best japonica blooms grown protected:

Large to very large: 'Swan Lake', Robert Fowler.

Medium: 'Pink Diddy', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Small: 'Black Tie', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Best reticulata or retic hybrid: 'Jean Pursel', Joe Austin.

Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jury Var', Joe Austin.

Collections:

Best tray of three, same variety, grown in open:

Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Best tray of five, different varieties, grown in open: Ed Liebers.

Best tray of three, same variety, grown protected:

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Best tray of five, different varieties, grown protected:

Mr. & Mrs. Olin Owen.

Best miniature bloom: 'Miss Tiny Tot Princess', Dr. J.M. Habel, Jr.

Best Seedling: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Sweepstakes, grown in open: Joe Thomasson.

Sweepstakes, grown protected: Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Holderby.

Show Chairman: Ed. Liebers

Number of blooms: 1250

## **MEN'S PIEDMONT CAMELLIA CLUB**

**Greensboro, NC March 12-13, 1983**

Japonicas grown in open:

Best bloom under 5": 'Ville de Nantes', James H. McCoy.

Runner-up: 'Betty Sheffield Blush Supreme',

Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Best bloom over 5": 'Donckelarii', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Runner-up: 'Gullio Nuccio', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Japonicas grown protected:

Best bloom under 5": 'Nuccio's Jewel', Mrs. Ray Watson.

Runner-up: 'Tomorrow Park Hill', Mrs. Ray D. Watson.

Miniatures:

Best bloom: 'Man Size', Lena and Harry Watson.

Runner-up: 'Tammia', Lena & Harry Watson.

Reticulatas and reticulata hybrids:

Best bloom: 'Redwood City', Joe Austin.

Runner-up: 'Jean Pursel', Mrs. Ray Watson.

Non-reticulata hybrids:

Best bloom: 'Rose Boquet', Joe Austin.

Runner-up: 'Anticipation', Joe Austin.

Seedlings:

Best seedling: 'Seedling No. 3', Katie Kelly.

Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

White japonicas:

Best bloom: 'Elegans Champagne', Mrs. Ray Watson.

Runner-up: 'Sea Foam', Mrs. Ray Watson

Collections:

Three blooms, same variety, grown in open: Lester Allen.

Three blooms, same variety, grown protected: J.W. Holderby.

Five blooms, different varieties, grown in open: James H. McCoy.

Five blooms, different varieties, grown protected: Joe Austin.

Novice award: 'Harold Paige', Katie Kelly.

Sweepstakes:

Grown in open, gold certificate: Joe Thomasson.

Grown in open, silver certificate: James H. McCoy.

Grown protected, gold certificate: Mrs. Ray Watson.

Grown protected, silver certificate: Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Holderby.

Show Chairman: William C. Nichols

Number of Blooms: 1676

## **VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

**Norfolk, VA March 26-27, 1983**

Unprotected blooms:

Best large: 'Tomorrow Park Hill', Grover C. Miller.

Runner-up: 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.

Best medium: 'Ville de Nantes', William G. Redwood.

Runner-up: 'Donckelarii', Mr. & Mrs. Melvin C. Stallings.

Best small: 'Kitty', Mr. & Mrs. William F. Sutton.

Runner-up: 'Grace Albritton', Mr. & Mrs. Melvin C. Stallings.

Best white: 'Masterpiece', Mrs. Malcolm K. Crockett, Sr.

Runner-up: 'Purity', Mr. & Mrs. William F. Sutton.

Best Seedling: Number 302, Dr. and Mrs. J.M. Habel.

Best tray of three, same variety: Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.

Best tray of five, different varieties: Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.

Best Miniature: 'Shuchuka', Mr. & Mrs. Ira E. Hefner.

Runner-up: 'Spring Festival', Mr. & Mrs. Ira E. Hefner.

Best reticulata: 'John Taylor', Grover C. Miller.

Runner-up: 'Black Lace', Mr. & Mrs. Ira E. Hefner.

Best non-retic hybrid: 'Angel Wings', Grover C. Miller.

Runner-up: 'Charlean', Grover C. Miller.

Blooms grown under glass:

Best large: 'Apollo 14', Mr. & Mrs. Ira E. Hefner.

Runner-up: 'Tomorrow Park Hill', Joe Austin.

Best medium: 'Guest Star', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.  
 Runner-up: 'Little Ginger', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.  
 Best small: 'Desire', Joe Austin.  
 Runner-up: 'Grace Albritton', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.  
 Best white: 'Winter Morn', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.  
 Runner-up: 'Nuccio's Gem', Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Habel.  
 Best reticulata: 'Jean Pursel', Joe Austin.  
 Runner-up: 'Nuccio's Ruby', Joe Austin.  
 Best non-retic hybrid: 'Rose Boquet', Joe Austin.  
 Runner-up: 'Mona Jury Var', Joe Austin.

Show Chairman: Melvin C. Stallings

Number of blooms: 551

## **TIDEWATER CAMELLIA CLUB**

**Wilmington, NC February 19, 1983**

Best bloom in Show: 'Jean Pursel, Blush Var', Joe Austin.

Japonicas grown in open:

Best bloom over 5": 'Elegans Supreme', Parker Connor.

Best bloom under 5": 'Sawada's Dream', Mrs. A.B. Rhodes.

Japonicas grown under protection:

Best bloom over 5": 'Elegans Splendor', R.R. McVey.

Best bloom under 5": 'Pink Diddy', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn.

Best Miniature: 'Grace Albritton', Dan Nathan.

Best retic or retic hybrid: 'Jean Pursel Blush var', Joe Austin.

Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jury Var', Joe Austin.

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

Best white japonica: 'Snowman', Fred Hahn.

Collections:

Best tray of three, grown in open, same variety: Bill Watson.

Best tray of five, grown in open, different varieties: Mrs. A.B. Rhodes.

Best tray of three, grown protected, same variety: Joe Austin.

Best tray of five, grown protected, different varieties: Joe Austin.

Sweepstakes:

Gold, grown in open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.

Silver, grown in open: Mrs. A.B. Rhodes.

Gold, grown protected: Joe Austin.

Silver, grown protected: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Show Chairman: Tim Gallivan

Number of blooms: 1146

## **SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL**

Cont. from page 13

I am not as familiar with the American scene in hybrid miniatures, but there are breeders like Dave Feathers who are working among them. Three U.S. introductions in this category have found their way into my garden. 'Spring Festival' is a magnificent grower and prolific in flower. 'Fragrant

Pink' and 'Cinnamon Cindy' are prized for their fragrance, and it is hoped that more fragrance may come from infusion of the recently arrived species from China, such as *forrestii* and *yuhsienensis*.

It seems that the hybrid miniature line offers many exciting prospects for the future. The potential of the miniature is just beginning to be recognized and may hold the key to new breaks in the future.



# AUTUMN AT LONGWOOD

Milton Brown

The period of October 27-30, 1983 will see the American Camellia Society holding its fall convention at Longwood Gardens and Winterthur.

This will be a truly exciting new adventure for ACS members to attend a convention in such a superb location. The meeting will coincide more or less, with the Annual Chrysanthemum Festival at Longwood Gardens. There we will see thousands upon thousands of chrysanthemums in all shapes and sizes and arrangements.

Longwood also has over 175 varieties of camellias, most all of them in the large conservatories. The Director, Everitt Miller, assures us that they will give some of the camellias in the hopes of having some of them in bloom during the convention. The banquet will be held in the lovely ballroom at Longwood Gardens and there will be an organ concert on the huge organ boasting more than 10,000 pipes. The educational meetings will be held in the auditorium at Longwood and speakers who have already assured us they will be there are Dr. Gordon Jones, the Director of Planting Fields Arboretum, which was the locale of the first **Camellia Reticulata** imported into the United States many years ago (these were plants of the **C. reticulata** 'Captain Rawes'); and Dr. Kenneth Torres, a Professor of Horticulture at Louisiana State University who specializes in tissue culture. This will be an exciting talk since many of us have known Ken from a little boy onward when he had a keen interest in camellias and went to many camellia shows each year with his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Torres of

Moss Point, MS.

There will be a tour in the afternoon in the gardens under the aegis of Everitt Miller and others of his staff. We will lunch at Longwood Gardens that Friday. On Saturday, we will lunch at the Winterthur Museum after we have seen the fabulous home of the DuPonts with all of the very rare American antiques of all sorts. We will also visit the Hagley Museum on Saturday.

The meeting kicks off with a delicious wine and cheese reception on Thursday evening, October 27th.

You will certainly want to tour a bit before or after the convention in this beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch area. Along the Brandywine Valley, you will find some of the most interesting antique shops anywhere in the country. There is also an excellent winery that you could visit known as the Mt. Hope Mansion and Winery — yes, we Pennsylvanians do make excellent wine! You will also be near historic Philadelphia and Franklin Center, Pennsylvania where the Franklin Mint has its fabulous museum. Throughout the entire area, you should see the beautiful fall colors of the hardwood trees that grow abundantly here.

Details of the convention hotel and the convention will be forthcoming in the August issue of the ACS "Camellia Journal". If you are not a member of ACS and wish to attend, you are cordially encouraged to do so. Write to Convention Chairman, American Camellia Society, P.O. Box 1217, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

# THE INFLUENCE OF NUMBER OF LEAVES ON CAMELLIA JAPONICA SCIONS ON GRAFTING ONTO C. SASANQUA STOCK<sup>1</sup>

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

A continuing study on what constitutes a good camellia scion was begun on 15 December 1982. The purpose of this phase of work was to decide whether a scion should have one leaf, two leaves, or three leaves.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Forty-five 3-yr-old *Camellia sasanqua* seedlings were selected as stock for 45 scions of *C. japonica*, cultivar Rev. John G. Drayton. Each scion was carefully selected so that it had at least one mature terminal vegetative bud and either one, two, or three mature leaves (Figure 1). The scions were cut from outdoor-grown plants at Clemson, SC, and grafted the same day. They were soaked for at least 30 minutes in a benomyl suspension ( $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoonful/gal of tap water) prior to setting. After setting, additional benomyl suspension was poured around the graft, and then the graft was covered with a No. 337 Dixie cup (24 oz). Sand was added to the top of the 1-gal Lerio containers in which the stock were growing so that a good seal could be made around the graft. The data were taken on 14 April 1983.

## RESULTS

Of the grafts made with scions that had only 1 leaf, 14 of 15 were successful (Table 1). Thirteen of 15 of the scions with two leaves were successful while 15 of 15 scions with three leaves were successful.

Table 1. The effect of the number of leaves (1, 2, or 3) on scions of *Camellia japonica* Rev. John G. Drayton successfully grafted onto *C. sasanqua* seedling stock.

leaves	Scions with		Number	
	Strong grafts	Weak grafts	Total grafts	
1	11/15*	3/15	14/15	
2	11/15	2/15	13/15	
3	13/15	2/15	15/15	

\*Numerator represents number of takes in each category; denominator represents total attempts.

There were 42 successful grafts from a total of 45 grafts made (3 scions died). Of these 7 were weak grafts and 35 were strong grafts (Figure 2).

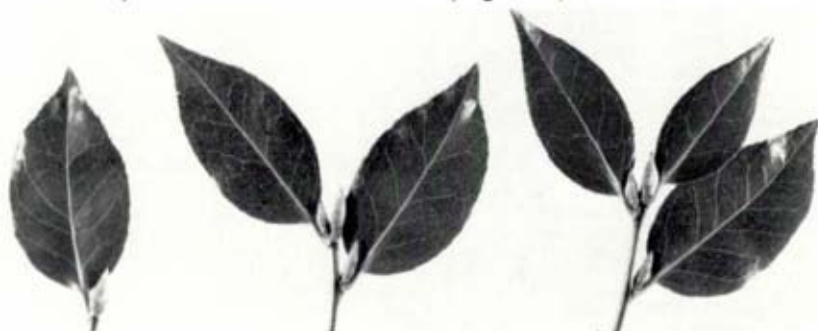


Fig. 1. Scions of *Camellia japonica*, cv. Rev. John Drayton. Note scions have either 1, 2, or 3 mature leaves with at least one mature terminal bud.



Fig. 2. Grafts of *Camellia japonica*, cv. Rev. John Drayton, showing strong graft (left) and weak graft (right).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Since all scions had at least one mature terminal vegetative bud (most had 2 or more mature vegeta-

tive buds), the quality of the individual buds was not a factor in this study. The factor that needs to be studied next is the position of the individual buds. In other words, will a mature bud at the number two or number three leaf position graft as successfully as a terminal bud? From the data it is concluded that the number of leaves and mature buds is not a factor in successfully grafting *C. japonica* scions onto *C. sasanqua* seedling stock provided that there is a terminal bud on each scion. The terminal bud may or may not be necessary for successful grafting. This problem will be studied in the winter and spring of 1983-84.

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<sup>1</sup>Supported in part by the Carolina Camellia Society and the American Camellia Society.

Acknowledgment to Jim Martin for photographs in the text.

## GREENER FIELDS?

Here in New Zealand, enthusiasm for camellias has never been higher. I recently gave a talk to 200 women, and the enthusiasm was quite remarkable. A few days later, one of the women phoned to ask if two (not one) bus loads could visit in August.

John Lesnie, Auckland, N.Z.



That great non-retic hybrid, 'Mona Jury'. Grown by John Hunt, photographed by Dr. Bob Withers, both of Victoria, Australia.



A SALUTE TO

## The Oldies

Regular Feature

Louise Mayo

Fayetteville, NC

When we lived on Morganton Road, we had a slat house on the back of the lot. We built it out of 2 x 4s and wire and hung moss on the wire. And if you don't think we had the prettiest flowers there you've ever seen **in your life!**

This 'Elizabeth Le Bey' opened, and Fred said, "Louise, don't you touch it. There's going to be a flower show down in Florence, and I want to send it down there by someone."

So Fred went on to work, and when he came home, I said, "Fred, it's bigger than it was yesterday!"

He said, "Just leave it alone! Just leave it alone! So I went to the grocery store and got a cardboard box about this big. The next day Fred cut that flower. We didn't know what we were doing! Fred said, "Put something soft in the bottom, something like kitchen towels, dampen it and I'll put it in there **myself.**"

You know what a hydranger looks like? That's exactly what that flower looked like! It was round as a ball and as big as a grapefruit, really! You think I'm telling a lie! It was the **prettiest flower** you ever saw!"

So Fred took it to Elizabeth. That's Elizabeth DeVane, Duncan DeVane's wife. Sam Hutaff was to pick it up there and take it to Florence. He had folded in the top of the box. When he gave the box to Elizabeth, she opened it, reached in there and **took that flower out!** She held it up and waved it in the air, and yelled to her yard man, "Come over

here and see this bloom! Come over here and look!" Then she put it back in the box.

When Sam came over to pick up the flower to take it to Florence, he and Elizabeth took it out of the box and Sam took it on to Florence.

Now listen to this! Sam put the flower in the show, but when he picked that thing up, it had been handled so many times till there was a bruised petal down on the bottom. Sam took some scissors and snipped off the bruised petal. He put the bruised petal back in the box and put the box in the car.

There was this lady from Timmons-ville named Mrs. Brooksie Anderson who used to win everywhere. So when they opened the show and Sam went to the head table to see what won, there was this 'Elizabeth LeBey' sitting up there with Mrs. Brooksie Anderson's name on it! They said, "Mrs. Anderson won best in the show. This is Mrs. Anderson's flower." And Sam said, "It's not any such thing! It's Fred Mayo's and I brought it from Fayetteville. If you want me to prove it to you, I'll go get that petal out of that box and show you where it went on this flower!"

Joe Austin was down there and he called Fred and said, "Fred, you know what, your 'Elizabeth LeBey' won best in show. So make your arrangements to come down here and see it. It's the most beautiful flower I ever saw in my life!"

# NEW CAMELLIAS

Joe Austin,

Four Oaks, NC

This article will be of interest to greenhouse growers only. Most of the varieties mentioned are new. A few are not new.

I went to considerable expense to get some of the new Chinese retics and wasted two years on them. I received twenty three scions and got twenty three nice six foot plants in two years. They bloomed and I cut down twenty plants and grafted on them. 'Jing'an Cha' is the only one I expect to keep.

The non-retics are still led by 'Mona Jury' and 'Rose Boquet'. Both of these will be around many years.

Listed below are some of the newer ones that have performed well for me this year.

'Arcadia'	'Lee Poe'
'Corrine Sebire'	'Lilette Witman'
'Delta Dawn'	'Lowanna, V'
'Dick Goodson'	'May Westbrook'
'Dr. Harry Moore, V'	'Our Kerry'
'Elizabeth Astles'	'Park Hill Blush'
'Elizabeth Weaver'	'Pink Dahlia'
'Emma Gaeta'	'Rebel Lady'
'Glowing Embers'	'Redwood City'
'Hody Wilson'	'Robert's Jewel'
'Janet Smith'	'Silver Cloud'
'Jean Pursel, V'	'Woodford Harrison'
'Lacy Love'	'Wandin Sebire'
'James McCoy'	'Hulyn Smith'

The scion of 'Pavlova' cost me \$40.00. I got it out of Australia before it was released. Last year when it bloomed, it was no good. When it bloomed this year, toward the end of the season, I had eight inch blooms with five rabbit ears. 'Gypsy rose, V' I showed for the first time this year. Just as the name suggests, it looks just like a rose. Mine is 85 percent white and is beautiful. This one could become a winner when the judges realize what it is. Listed below are some new dogs. If you don't have them, don't get them. If you do have them, cut them down and graft on them! They won't get any better.

'Happy Days'	'South Port'
'Mary Stringfellow'	'Vi Stone'

I have grafted two hundred this year and I know I will have some great ones and a few more dogs. I do like to see them take and grow. This is the first day of May and I have already uncovered one hundred and ten. This may help you stay away from some of the dogs. I now put a new one on one side and one that I know is good on the other. Let them grow until the new one blooms or until I see it in a show. This way, I save two years. The Pursel seedlings have corky leaves, and I don't know why. Some are real bad. I am trying Benlate spray and Ridomil drench on them. I will report on the results as soon as I can.

Have a good summer and I'll see you in the fall. Grow some good 'uns, 'cause brother, you'll need 'em.



# IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy

It is hard to imagine any dangers connected with growing camellias, but there are a few. I have mentioned some in past issues, and another one has recently been brought to my attention. Mr. Lonnie Timmerman, Greenwood, SC, recounted to me an experience he had that could have had fatal consequences. His greenhouse is heated with gas and the gas heater is not vented. During an extremely cold spell in January 1982 the heater went out. A friend of his, Bill Gardner, came around to help him get it going again. Bill climbed a step ladder to light the heater, and after a few moments got dizzy and had to come down. As soon as he got outside the greenhouse, he passed out, apparently overcome by carbon monoxide fumes. Imagine the consequences if Bill had been working alone and had not succeeded in getting outside the greenhouse.

I should know by now not to make unequivocal statements about camellias. Everytime I do, I regret it. Not long ago, I stated that the only good blooms from unprotected retics in the East were a few gibbed blooms in the fall. I should have known some joker would come along and make a monkey out of me. This time it was Elliott Brogdon. He was in Fayetteville March 23, and he brought along a very nice variegated bloom of 'Francie L'. It was not the largest 'Frances L' that I had ever seen but it was big enough, about 5½ inches. What it lacked in size it made up in form. It was a uniform bloom, full of rabbit ears, and beautifully variegated. Elliott said that the plant was growing outside, on the north side of his house, and had opened hundreds of beautiful blooms, most of them larger than the one he showed me! I would be

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inclined to contribute the performance of 'Francie L' outside to its saluenensis blood, except for the fact that 'Red Emperor' (all retic) does equally well for Elliott. Maybe we're missing the boat.

Sometimes a scion will just set there after grafting. It will not grow and it will not die. Is there anything you can do to get it to go? I know for a fact that if you want to wait these reluctant beauties out, sometimes they go through an entire year and then start growing, more than a year after the graft was made. I believe though, that the root stock would have deteriorated to the point where you would not have much more than a rooted cutting. Jack Teague tried an unusual technique with 'Glowing Embers' and was successful. He grafted it last year but it wouldn't take. It just sat there and sat there and sat there. July came and still no growth. So he took a graft of 'Carter's Sunburst' that had callused well, and removed the scion. He put the reluctant scion of 'Glowing Embers' right into the raw callus where 'Carter's Sunburst' had been removed. This time it took and grew. Ivan Mitchell from Melrose, FL writes that he has success in stimulating reluctant scions into growth by carefully trimming along the bottom of the juncture of scion and rootstock to expose some cambium. He then treated the wound with Hormodin #3, packed rooting medium (sand and peat) around the wound and covered it with a jar. He says that this procedure worked a few times, but probably hastened the demise of scion and rootstock at other times.

The question arises ever now and then: Must the whole camellia bloom fall to the ground and rot in order to spread camellia petal



blight, or are the individual petals, as from a shattered flower, also dangerous? The answer to this question is important, because some very lovely camellias have the exasperating habit of literally covering the ground underneath the plant with camellia petals. Picking up every petal in a case like this is enough to make a grower cut that plant down and graft something thereon which does not shatter. One of our most knowledgeable and respected plant pathologists was consulted about this and his answer ran something like this: "If it is relatively dry underneath the plant, if there is a good pine straw mulch and the petals are not likely to remain in a moist condition, there is little danger from these shattered flowers." More justification for mulching your camellias.

This year, I have seen two camellias for the first time which literally set me on fire! Neither of them was very large. They were both formal double japonicas. One was "the prettiest camellia you have ever seen", referred to on the Editor's Page of the winter issue of this publication. It was 'Gypsy Rose', introduced by Mr. Edgar Sebire in 1979. It was in Joe Austin's greenhouse. Joe had variegated it with a scion of 'King Lear', and the variegation had a most unusual effect on it. 'Gypsy Rose' is supposed to be bright red, but this bloom was almost all white. The bright red was in the rose bud center and a small amount on the fringes of the outside petals. You had better put this one on your want list. The other one was a seedling shown by Katie Kelly in the Greensboro show. It won best seedling in the show. The color is hard to de-

scribe. Just let me say that it was light colored and unusual. The characteristic that appealed most to me was the form. It was relatively high centered complete double of the spiral form. The spiral was very pronounced. I have been told that this was the first bloom produced by the plant, so it might not be typical. If it turns out that it is, then we've got a great camellia on our hands. Are you listening, Ray Gentry?

The sun may play a bigger part in rapid growth of camellias than some of us realize. Most of us try to provide at least filtered shade for our camellias, for that's what we're supposed to do. But listen to this: I fell in love with 'Kiku-Toji' when I saw it in San Mateo in February 1981. I persuaded one of my friends to send me a scion. He did and I made four grafts. All took and grew pretty well. In the fall of 1981, I gave one of these plants to Annabelle Fetterman, and in early 1982, I gave one to Bill Anderson. This is the one that I want to focus attention on. It was not the largest of the three, but when I saw it again at the end of the summer, it was at least 18 inches taller than either of the two that I had left. I was flabbergasted! I asked Bill if he had repotted it, and he told me that he had not. I asked him about feeding it. He told me that he just threw a handfull of Osmocote on it, the same thing that I did to mine. Why then did his grow so much faster than mine? The only answer that we could come up with was that he had set his plant out in full sun, and mine was kept in the shade of tall oaks. Needless to say, my plants this summer will occupy the sunniest area of my yard.

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The sophisticates may feel that their biggest problem may be the near impossible problem of where they can get enough root stock to graft their choice crop of scions for the season. The Novice, or potential novice may have a more fundamental problem: "Where can I buy some good varieties of camellias locally?"

Ivan Mitchell, Melrose, FL.

## FOR THE BEGINNER

Regular Feature

Beginner, in the past three years, we have talked about how to plant and care for camellias, and the various ways to propagate them. We have scarcely touched on the diseases and pests of camellias. The reason, I suppose, is that camellias just don't have that many pests nor are they susceptible to many diseases. Let's consider camellia petal blight, the most devastating disease of camellias.

It made its appearance in this country in California and has spread despite laws, precautions, and prayers to all areas of the country where camellias are grown. This is not to suggest that all gardens are infected. There are many gardens in cities where the disease is prevalent that are free of the disease. I have never seen any evidence of it in my own garden or greenhouse, though it is widespread in Fayetteville. To see a camellia garden in full bloom which is infected with petal blight is enough to make a grown man cry! Though the flowers look lovely from a distance, as you approach them, you notice that they are covered with ugly brown spots and splotches. You can be sure that it is petal blight and not water damage if you will rub the spot between your fingers. If it is slick and slimy, and if it disintegrates between your fingers, it is petal blight.

There is no satisfactory chemical agent for fighting camellia petal blight yet. There is a campaign,

started by Dave Feathers and sponsored by ACS, called the Dave Feathers Fight Blight Campaign, which can grant an annual award of \$1000.00 for the best idea for fighting blight. Some day we may conquer petal blight with some chemical agent.

Everyone should be aware of the life cycle of the fungus in order to better protect himself from it. Several years ago, I took a plant of 'Miss Charleston' in full bloom to our camellia show. One well known camellia grower and exhibitor told me that I had better strip all open blooms off the plant before I took it back to my greenhouse or I might bring in petal blight. I did so. It was much later that I realized that there was no such danger! It is not transmitted from flower to flower.

When an infected flower falls to the ground and remains there, the fungus lies dormant throughout the following summer and winter. When warm weather approaches, the fungus comes to life. It produces a little cup shaped growth like a tiny mushroom. This little "mushroom" generates and releases into the air millions of spores. These spores are carried by the wind, sometimes as far as 5 miles, and deposited on camellia blooms. This will cause infection and the cycle will repeat itself.

Is there anything you can do to protect yourself? Yes. If you don't have it, try not to get it. I would assume that all nurseries have it. They



# We Bury John Davis, I Think

James H. McCoy

My stepmother called me from Sumter, South Carolina, to tell me that John Davis Honeycutt was dead. He was a distant relative of mine, about my age, who used to come out to my grandmother Gordon's house where I was raised. My cousin, Gordon, and I hated for him to come out because we had to play with him. He didn't know how to play any games, and was so dumb till you could tell him anything and he'd believe it! He went with Gordon and me one time to see if there were any apricots on the ground under the tree. We could eat those that fell off the tree, but were not allowed to pick them. Sure enough, Gordon found one and John Davis found one. I looked and looked but could not find one. I told John Davis that they were poisonous and that he'd better not eat it. He threw it down, and I quickly retrieved it. I told him that I didn't want the chickens to get it, that it might kill them. He believed me!

I had not seen John Davis from the time he was a teen ager until 1956, when he came to visit my father one Sunday and while he was there, showed him how to graft camellias. I watched the demonstration, and my life thereafter was never the same. He had graduated from Clemson College, gone into the army, got out and got married. His wife was the daughter of a wealthy farmer who lived near Bethany, North Carolina. After her parents died, John Davis took over the operation of his father-in-law's farms.

My step mother told me that he was going to be buried in Bethany, and that the funeral would be at two o'clock, Friday, July 15. The Highgate funeral home was handling the burial. I thought that this was a very appropriate name for a

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funeral home, almost as good as Pearlygate or Goldstreet. Although Bethany was more than 100 miles from Fayetteville, Angie and I decided to go to the funeral. After all, John Davis didn't have any brothers or sisters and his parents were dead. We figured that if we left at 9:00 AM, we would get there in plenty of time to express our condolences to the family and attend the funeral. Anyone would have thought so.

We left on time and got to Bethany about noon. We found the funeral home easily, but there was an ominous lack of activity around it. There were no cars in the parking lot and no person in sight. I parked at the front door and went in. There was a large foyer with large parlors on each side. One parlor had a casket at the far end which was open. There was no sign of the funeral director or anybody else. But I thought that I had found John Davis. I walked over and looked in the casket. It wasn't John Davis! It was some lady with hands folded across her chest, and awkwardly clutching a slightly wilted rose. I quickly retreated. I didn't know what to do, whether to yell, "Anybody home?", or just go on back to Fayetteville and forget the whole thing. Then I spotted a buzzer and a sign that said "Press buzzer for Service". I wasn't sure that I wanted any service. I wanted information. But I pressed the buzzer anyway. I jumped nearly three feet! That buzzer was loud enough to wake the dead - just a figure of speech, of course. After a moment or two, a tall thin gentleman came down the stairs, dressed in a dark suit. I told him that I was looking for John Davis Honeycutt.

27 He said, "Oh yes, he was here,



but he went over to Robertsonville this morning."

I wondered if we were talking about the same John Davis Honeycutt. The one I was talking about couldn't go anywhere. He was **dead**. But my new friend cleared up that question. "I would'a took care of him here, but they wanted to bury him this afternoon, and I had to take care of Miss Annie Purvis. I couldn't do 'em both."

He had a point. **Somebody** surely had to take care of Miss Annie Purvis.

He told us that we wouldn't have any trouble finding the Robertsonville funeral home as it was on Main Street. We left. Robertsonville was only ten miles away. We got there about 12:30 and found the funeral home easily. Angie said that she was hungry.

We went in, and found that there were a lot of people there, none of whom we knew. John Davis was there too, but the casket was closed. We didn't even see a register that we could sign to prove that we had been there. We found that the funeral would be conducted **in the cemetery!** I had never heard of such a thing! Angie mentioned again that she was hungry. We knew that somewhere close by, there must be tables groaning under the weight of food, food brought by "friends of the family". But we didn't know where it was. We decided to slip out and get a hamburger and a coke or a sandwich or something like that. After all, the funeral wasn't going to be till 2:00 and it wasn't even 1:00 yet. Somebody told us that the cemetery was only about five miles outside town.

So we slipped out, walked a couple of blocks, found a cafe and ordered two hamburgers, two cokes and one order of french fries. They took so long to serve us till I began to get nervous. We were finally served, and were finally on our way back to

the funeral home.

We knew something was wrong before we even got there! All the cars were gone and so was the hearse, which had been parked under a portico. A lady told us not to worry, that they had just left, that we should go back down Main Street, and turn at the stop light. The cemetery would be on our right about five miles out of town.

We followed her directions, turned right at the stop light and drove, and drove, and drove. Finally, after we had gone about ten miles, we **knew** something was wrong. Maybe she meant for us to turn **left** at the stop light! We made a "U" turn and headed back the way we had come. We passed the stop light and after about five miles, found the cemetery. It was on the right. There was a crowd of people gathered around a grave site only a couple hundred feet from the highway. But I couldn't find the entrance into the cemetery. It seemed that the funeral had already started. We decided to park on the highway, jump the ditch, and walk over to the grave site. We did, and I snagged my pants on a blackberry bush. This burned me up as it was my new Northcool suit that Angie had given me for my birthday.

They had started alright! One preacher was telling everybody what a good man John Davis was, while two more were ready to take up where the first one left off. I wouldn't have minded so much except that it was at least 95 degrees in the shade, and there wasn't any shade. Some of the ladies were fanning themselves with fans that they were smart enough to have brought along. Some were using newspapers. Some of the men were using their hats as fans. I didn't have anything. The perspiration was running down my sleeve and even down my back and chest as far as my waist! I stood it until the preacher sat down. I told Angie that

I'd had enough! That they could all drop dead of sunstroke if they wanted to, that I was going home. We tried without success to leave inconspicuously. We jumped the ditch again, I snagged my pants again, we got in the car and took off. I waited till

I got out of sight of the cemetery to make a "U" turn and head back for Fayetteville. "Goodbye, John Davis, where ever you are. And the same to you, Miss Annie. I hope they give you a fresh rose."

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## FOR THE BEGINNER

cont. from page 26

all don't, but it would be bad news if you assumed that they didn't. Most nurseries try to protect their customers from petal blight, but unfortunately, all don't. I heard of one nursery man, whose nursery was badly infested, who picked up a fallen, infected bloom and tossed it onto a pile of potting soil! How callous can one be! It would be safest to bring in only bare rooted plants. If you do buy a plant in a container or balled and burlapped, be sure to observe it very carefully for the first year. Keep the top of the soil in the container clean, or if planted in the garden, don't mulch. Keep the soil underneath the plant clean so that you can observe any unusual, dime size or smaller, mushroom like growth. Unfortunately, by the time you observe these apothecia, it is too late. But at least, you can dig up the plant and dispose of the infected soil. It would be much safer however, if you would bare root the plant as soon as you get it. Camellias are such marvelous plants when it comes to moving or repotting. They don't seem to mind having their roots washed clean of soil. In fact, sometimes they seem to grow even better after such treatment.

Whether you have it or not, pick up all fallen blooms within a day or two if you possibly can. I remember Mr. Wendell Levi said in an article, that he caught his falling blooms in mid-air. He was exaggerating of course, but it gives an idea of the

importance he attributed to this practice.

This dread disease is having an effect on the camellia scene. One friend from Charlottesville, Virginia, simply gave up growing camellias on account of petal blight. There is an effort on the part of some growers, to identify and plant only the very early varieties in order to have blooms before petal blight shows itself in the spring. There are those who will not plant a camellia which shatters, regardless of the beauty of the bloom. There are attempts on the part of some hybridizers, to use sasanqua blood in their programs in order to get some early blooming hybrids.

In any event, don't give up on camellias on account of this disease. Just work at keeping it out of your garden if you don't have it. If you do have it, you can get rid of it by picking up every single bloom that falls to the ground for three years. If there are not camellias growing within five miles of you, you probably will get rid of the problem. If there are camellias within the five mile radius, then there's not much chance of your ever getting rid of petal blight. In such a case, you can concentrate on growing the early blooming varieties and use gib liberally in the early fall. For those late blooming varieties which cannot be persuaded with gib to bloom early, then just write them off, and wait for the glorious day when the Dave Feathers Fight Blight Campaign comes up with a sure-fire, chemical control. It will!



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