

Carolina Camellias



(Shin-Tsukasa-Nishiki)

In Memoriam

ERNEST O. AYCOCK



Ernest O. Aycock, one of our best and best known camellia growers, died July 26 in Veteran's Hospital in Durham after a period of declining health.

Since mid 1950s, Ernest has been growing camellias and with such success till he and his wife, Sadie, were hard put to find shelf space for all his trophies. Quoting from an article in *Carolina Camellias*: "Ernest and Sadie Aycock — are back on the show circuit again, giving other exhibitors up and down the East Coast cold chills."

Ernest was a member of the Fayetteville Camellia Club, the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, the North Carolina Camellia Society, and American Camellia Society. He was a past president of the North Carolina Camellia Society. He and Sadie were both accredited judges of the American Camellia Society.

During the 1976 Bicentennial year, he was made an honorary member of Royal Horticultural Society of England, an honor having been given to only 200 at that time.

For 18 years, Ernest was in the building supply and hardware business, Aycock's Inc. He closed the business in 1966. He was employed by Smithfield Electric Supply Company until he retired in 1972.

He was a member of Smithfield First Presbyterian Church.

Carolina Camellias

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Editor's Page



A new camellia year is all but upon us. Perhaps some of you have already produced a 'September Morn' or a 'Daik'. If you haven't, it won't be long. As for your editor, he is anxiously awaiting the first bloom on a sasanqua! Why? Well, last year while we were away from home in early October, one opened in the seedling patch. As we were away for two weeks, I don't know the date of opening, but my neighbor called my attention to it when I returned and he told me that it had been open for more than a week. It was a 'Francie L' pink, medium size, formal. It remained in this form for about another week, then opened to reveal stamens. Formal double sasanquas are not very common and this one seemed to have exceptional "staying power". Hence the excitement.

This year promises to be a good one for growers and exhibitors on the East Coast. The camellias all seem to be in fine shape. But what sets this season apart from all others is the great news that Charlotte NC is hosting the ACS convention in March. To my knowledge, this is the first time that North Carolina has ever hosted an annual convention. Wilmington, bless

them, has hosted ACS several times for fall conventions. This is a rare opportunity for you who don't usually attend ACS conventions. This one is close to home and is staged by as enthusiastic a group of camellia people as there is anywhere. Also, they are among the camellia community's best growers. Last year in San Mateo, I saw a bloom of a new variety. It wasn't especially impressive. Well, I returned in time for the Fayetteville show. Would you believe that Robert Fowler from Lumberton brought a bloom of this variety and it was spectacular! It didn't win but it certainly was a strong contender.

So, why don't you plan to come to Charlotte, even if you have never attended an ACS convention before. If you do, you may not ever want to miss another one. The joy that is everywhere, the happiness, the friendliness, the love is something that cannot but impress and please you. You don't have to be a camellia grower. You don't have to "know" anybody. Just come and you'll see what I mean. I guarantee that you'll go home with new friends and happier than when you came.

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

City of HISTORY and HOSPITALITY

Graem Yates

Convention Chairman

HISTORY

The Catawba Indians were the first to live here -- on the banks of the "Great River", now called the Catawba.

The settlers moved upland from Charles Town - French Huguenots, Germans, but mostly Scotch-Irish Presbyterians.

Charlotte was designated a town in 1768. In March, 1774, the General Assembly of North Carolina confirmed Charlotte as the county seat of Mecklenburg County. It was named in honor of Charlotte, the wife of King George III. It is still called the "Queen City".

Queen's College, the first college in North Carolina, was denied a charter by King George III. This, plus other restrictions by the Crown, led to the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 20, 1775, declaring itself free of England.

During the American Revolution, Charlotte was occupied by Lord Cornwallis, but the conqueror found Mecklenburg most inhospitable. In one skirmish at the McIntyre farm, beehives were overturned to rout the British soldiers. Cornwallis called the town a "hornets nest" -- a term which is still associated with Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Young Conrad Reed was wading in Little Meadow Creek near Charlotte in 1799. A shining rock caught his eye. He took the seventeen pound rock to his cabin to be used as a doorstep. Three years later Conrad's father sold the rock for \$3.50. A Fayetteville jeweler processed the rock into a solid gold bar eight inches long. The Reed gold nugget was the first recorded discovery of gold in the United States.

Charlotte became the gold mining capital of the United States and did not relinquish this title until the California gold rush of 1849. Much of downtown Charlotte stands over abandoned shafts which were once gold mines. One of the government's first branch mints was put in Charlotte, with gold coinage beginning in 1838. After the mint was closed, the building was painstakingly moved to the Eastover section where it is now the Mint Museum of Art.

Tobacco King, "Buck" Duke, organized the Southern Power Company, later Duke Power Company, to generate hydro-electricity from the rivers of the Piedmont in 1904. By 1920 over 300 cotton mills were operating in the area. One of the first and largest was Cannon Mills, located near Charlotte at Kannapolis.

North Carolina's first skyscraper, the Independence Building, was begun in 1905. This was the symbol that Charlotte was, and still is, the Queen City of the Carolinas - The Spearhead of the New South.

HOSPITALITY

"Come to TARHEEL TERRITORY" is the theme for your ACS Convention to be headquartered at the Sheraton Center, March 4 - 6, 1982, in Charlotte. Since this is the first ACS Convention to be held here, let us tell you a little bit about Charlotte.

Our population is over 300,000 - covering 138 square miles.

A truly moderate climate, the city is protected from severely cold weather by the mountains to the west. Snow is light and infrequent. But we suggest you bring warm clothing to the Convention.

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Presidents' Messages

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



The annual fall meeting of the South Carolina Camellia Society will be held in conjunction with the Atlantic Coast Convention in Myrtle Beach, Saturday, October 3, 1981 at 9:00 a.m. Please make plans to attend this meeting as well as all of the activities of the convention.

The S.C. ladies are busy planning the Luau for Friday night. Dress in your favorite Hawaiian costume because several lucky couples will win costume prizes which will be donated to A.C.S. We assure you a "top-notch"

Hawaiian evening.

We need to work harder to gain more members. Let's all give some gift memberships (only \$5.00) to encourage more interest in camellias. These subscriptions make ideal Christmas gifts.

I have enjoyed serving you during these past two years and look forward to seeing and working with all of you in the future. I appreciate all the support that was given me during my term as president.

Oliver Mizzell, President

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



I hope that all have had a very enjoyable summer. For our family it has been a super summer but has flown by too fast.

Our Fayetteville club is planning on hosting the fall meeting of North Carolina Camellia Society. There will be a show in conjunction with this meeting. The date of the meeting and show will be October 31, 1981. The place, Highland Country Club. More details will be mailed out by the N.C.C.S. secretary in plenty of time for you to make your plans. We hope that all of you have already started gibbing and will attend the meeting and bring blooms for the show.

We of the Fayetteville Camellia Club are saddened by the loss of our very dear friend, Ernest Aycock. We shall miss him very much, as will the rest of the camellia world.

My wife, Lavia, and I are looking forward to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society meeting October 2 and 3. We are practicing our Hula dancing. We hope to see all of you there.

Here's hoping that everyone's plants have done well this summer. So, until we meet again may all your gibbed blooms be winners.

Ed Liebers, President

P.S. Don't forget your NCCS dues. Mail them to Mr. Harris Newber, Rt. 3, Box 57, Wilmington, N.C. 28403.

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



The Virginia Camellia Society has recognized a need to reach young families, many in their first or second homes. This was first brought to our attention through the mall shows and plant sales. Many young families inherit camellia plants through the purchase of a home and have no idea how to care for their yards or the nomenclature or varieties involved. We are planning a handout at shows and plant sales which will allow these future camellia growers to bring their blooms to a special meeting. The society members will identify the

blooms and hand out tags for these potential new members.

The Tidewater Board of Realtors, Savings and Loan League, and Home Improvement Builders have selected a home in an old neighborhood which is in the process of rehabilitation. Our society is planning to landscape with new camellias. The local garden club and local seed suppliers are planting the lawn and caring for the balance of the yard.

This year we are hoping to be of service, not only to our members, but to friends and plant lovers in our communities. We know the membership will not only prosper in this manner, but we too will learn more about our own gardens and yards as we help others.

The Norfolk Botanical Gardens has developed an outstanding camellia program and each year, through the efforts of some of our outstanding members, new varieties of camellias are added to this most beautiful garden.

The founder of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Fred Heutte, passed away several years ago and now "The Fred Heutte Foundation" is well established. Each year our society contributes funds and plants for a several acre memorial to this most outstanding horticulturist and friend to the nature lovers of Tidewater, Virginia.

The Virginia Camellia Society welcomes ideas and suggestions from our sister societies of the Carolinas. Should you have programs which would help us meet our goals for the 81-82 season, we would very much appreciate hearing from our friends in the Carolinas.

Cecil E. Sears, President

ABOUT THE COVER FLOWER

ABOUT THE COVER FLOWER

'Shin-Tsukasa-Nishiki' is a c. Higo camellia. It is a single form with an immense burst of about 160 stamens and 6 broad petals. The flower is white streaked and splotched rose pink with a diameter of 11 cm. It blooms in March in Japan. The plant has dark green large glossy foliage and a vigorous spreading growth.

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Oliver Mizzell, <i>President</i>	Rt. 1, Box 112, Elloree, S.C. 29047
Geary Serpas, <i>1st Vice President</i>	104 Tyvola Dr., Summerville, S.C. 29483
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William C. Robertson, <i>Treasurer</i>	319 Deep Run Road, Aiken, S.C. 29801
L.W. Baxter, Jr., <i>Ch. of Test Gardens</i>	Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631

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Jack Hendrix, District V	Rt. 6, Box 267, Rock Hill, S.C. 29730
J.B. Mayer, District VI	20 Mayer St., Georgetown, S.C. 29440

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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Harris Newber	James H. McCoy	Charles Monroe
Mrs. Marie Sweum	Fred Mayo	Graem Yates

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Cecil E. Sears, <i>President</i>	1355 Monterey Ave., Norfolk, Va. 23508
Mrs. Lillian P. Miller, <i>1st Vice President</i>	4540 Shoshone Ct., Norfolk, Va. 23513
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MAKE ROOM FOR A CAMELLIA

Luther W. Baxter, Jr.

"Find a need and fill it," was the motto of Henry Kaiser, one of America's successful industrialists. During the late fall, winter, and early spring, there is a paucity of large, beautiful flowers, but a gift from the Orient, the camellia, fills the void and provides us with an extra special flower in the midst of an otherwise gray horizon. Of course, there are other evergreens in the South including the venerable and versatile large-flowered evergreen magnolia and two odoriferous specimens, gardenia and daphne. Others that grow in the goober belt could be mentioned, such as the many types of evergreen hollies, but they do not have large flowers that are revealed at such a time.

The cultivars of *Camellia japonica* have little scent, but in spite of their lack of nose appeal, they make up for it in eye appeal. Camellias are moderately variable in color and excessively variable in form so that no two seedlings are identical. This, of course, is nothing new in nature since people, with few exceptions, are all different. This feature itself is an interesting phenomenon, particularly since the size and shape of the leaves, the method of branching, the rapidity of growth, and other characteristics give added inconstancy and more interest to the plant.

While the species will grow on yonder hill or down under a canopy of the stately, tall pines. Camellia leaves have a propensity for the diffuse sunlight that seeps between the pine needles, converting it into chemical energy that nourishes both the vegetative buds and the floral buds, along with stem and root tissue. Only the green leaves can capture the physical light energy of the sun to fix the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and the water from the soil

and convert them into chemical energy that is needed and used by the entire plant. Thus, it behooves all camellia enthusiasts to keep the leaves green, healthy, numerous and vigorous. The more leaves the plant has, the more photosynthesis — thus the plant is more excellent. Only the camellia plant can convert the beauty of sunlight into the beauty of camellia blossoms. It is the blossom that nature's servant and steward disrobes from the plant and gives to a friend. This blossom, this daughter of the sun, ignites the coals of enthusiasm and mirrors beauty in the face of the friend, and then the good neighbor is paid in full. No flower is too large, no blossom too small to be held in awe and reverence by those who appreciate this species.

It is axiomatic that those who best understand the camellia have the greatest respect for her. She indeed is a part of the environment and well has earned the right, and the right of her progeny, to be here.

Do not deny this "effort of nature" the minerals, water and sunlight that she must have. In the environment of the South, the camellia is a poor competitor, but in its native land it can persuade the other flora of the Good Earth to make room for it. Thus, we temporarily have to forfeit the rights of competitive aggressors to be in that selected spot we reserve for our gift from the Orient. Thus, hardwood trees must be kept out, or at least carefully rebuild the soil that was abused for years, leaving only the non-fertile subsoil. It requires thousands of years for nature to transform it into fertile topsoil which can encourage and support luxuriant growth. For our queen of plants we supply moisture during time of need along with the necessary minerals. Pests of various kinds are thwarted by

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A VISIT TO ALLEN KEMP'S NURSERY

James H. McCoy

Fayetteville, NC

Allen Kemp is a director of North Carolina Camellia Society and a member of the Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte. I had known him for some time and knew that he had a small nursery, but it was not until the 1980 fall meeting of NCCS in Wilmington did I hear about his method of rooting cuttings, a method that produced almost 100 per cent takes. When I expressed interest in visiting his nursery and seeing his "rooting operation," I got an invitation immediately.

As I was planning to attend the December meeting of the Charlotte club, we agreed that I would visit his nursery that same day, December 1, 1980. I don't know what gave me the idea, but I thought Allen lived in the outskirts of Charlotte. Anyway, on Monday, December 1, I with Angie and Eddie Liebers, the president of North Carolina Camellia Society, left Fayetteville about 11:00 AM for Charlotte. It's a good thing we left so early.

When we examined the directions to Kemp's nursery, we found that we would have to go north on I-70 about 20 miles, to exit 30, turn off and go 8 to 10 miles further. The directions were good and we arrived without any trouble. It was worth every mile of the trip.

A more beautiful sight, overlooking an arm of Lake Norman could hardly be imagined. And it was in December, certainly not the most beautiful time of the year. The house is relatively high above the water with a magnificent view from the rear. Access to the water is easy, with stone steps and two terraces. The first terrace is right outside the back door and is flat as a flounder. Then comes a 5 to 6 foot stone retaining wall, built by a master stone mason, Mrs. Kemp. The lower terrace is also level and stretches to the water's edge with a "sea wall" of rip-rap protecting the edges. The terraces are grassed and there are azaleas everywhere!

The camellias are generally between the house and the road. They are planted under deciduous trees and are just as healthy and happy looking as any I have ever seen. Many of them are from 30 inches to 5 feet in height with some much larger and thousands smaller. They are dug, balled and plastic wrapped when they are purchased. Many had been purchased too, because the area was pock marked with holes where camellias used to grow. Allen warned us as we walked among them to be careful of the holes as they had been filled with leaves and most were concealed. You had to test the ground before you put your weight on your foot to be sure it wasn't a hole you were about to step into. Despite the warning, Eddie stepped in a hole and fell flat on the ground. I didn't laugh because I was expecting the same thing to happen to me any minute.

The camellia rooting operation consisted of a 55 gallon drum cut in half. It was buried about half way in the ground. The hole for the half drum is dug deep enough to permit placing a good bed of gravel in the bottom before placing the drum. Holes were drilled 4 inches apart all the way around the drum, 7 inches from the bottom. The drum is then filled with gravel to a depth sufficient to just cover the holes around the perimeter (about 8 inches deep). Four inches of rooting mix is placed on this gravel. The mix is half and half perlite and peat. The spot should be shady but not dense shade. The more light the better. The rooting mix is wetted and packed. The cuttings are inserted. You do not have to cover the top with plastic or anything else. You won't have to worry about over water-

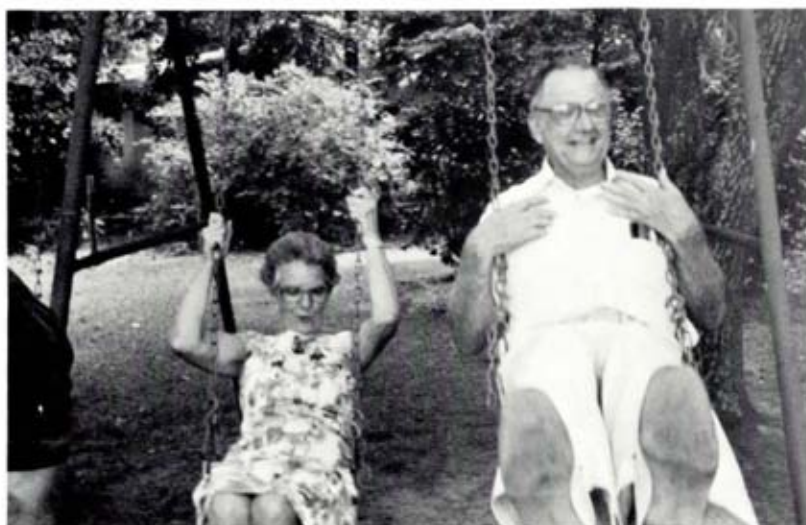
ing as the water will run out the holes at the 7 inch level. The water in the gravel below the holes will keep the rooting mix moist through capillary action. Chances are, due to rainfall, you will never have to water your cuttings either. Allen reports that he gets 100 percent takes on azaleas and almost that good on camellias, hollies, boxwoods and anything else he wants to root.

A visit to his nursery would be a worthwhile trip. If you don't find any camellias that you would want to purchase, maybe Mrs. Kemp will give you a slice of her pound cake. This would be worth the trip.

SHOW DATES

Columbia, SC - State Fair Grounds	Oct. 24-25, 1981
Greenwood, SC - Cross Creek Mall	Oct. 31, 1981
Washington, DC - U.S. National Arboretum	Oct. 31, 1981
Norfolk, VA - Pembroke Mall, Virginia Beach	Nov. 14, 1981
Charleston, SC - First Federal S & L, 34 Broad St.	Nov. 21-22, 1981
Aiken, SC - Kennedy Jr. High School	Jan 23-24, 1982
Charleston, SC - Charlestowne Square Mall	Jan 30-31, 1982
Columbia, SC - Columbia Mall	Feb. 14-15, 1982
Wilmington, NC - Independence Mall	Feb. 20-21, 1982
Fayetteville, NC - Cross Creek Mall	Feb. 27-28, 1982
Charlotte, NC - Eastland Mall (ACS Convention)	Mar. 4-6, 1982
Greensboro, NC - Four Seasons Mall	Mar. 13-14, 1982
Norfolk, VA - Norfolk Botanical Gardens	Mar. 27-28, 1982

A CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING IS...



...HAVING FUN!

A Spirit of Sharing

Graem Yates

Frank Dowd looked up from his desk at the American Trust Company on Charlotte's Tryon Street at the crowd gathering in front of his bank's window. Women clutched their shopping bags, men huddled under overcoats, and children with lollipops pressed against the glass. Curious himself, Frank went to the window to see what was creating the excitement. Then he saw. Before coming to the bank on this crisp spring morning, he and his wife, Elizabeth, had brought a few of their camellia blooms to display in the bank's window. It pleased Frank that he was able to share his hobby with these busy passersby. He smiled to himself, proudly.

But someone else had also noticed the crowd milling about the bank window on Tryon Street that day. The Charlotte News Cora Harris instinctively sensed a story. After seeing the beautiful blooms for herself, she wrote a feature article about the event. The response generated by her newspaper article was so great that a group of camellia enthusiasts banded together and organized the Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte. That was in 1954.

As a tribute to their efforts, Frank and Elizabeth Dowd were honored at a Banquet by the Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte in 1974. At the annual Ladies Night in 1975, Cora Harris was guest of honor.

Soon the Club membership swelled to more than one hundred interested growers from throughout the area. The club has annually sponsored a camellia show in cooperation with the parent American Camellia Society (ACS). The members actively support other camellia groups outside the Charlotte area. Past vice-presidents and state directors of the American Camellia Society have come from the Charlotte

Charlotte, N.C.

club. Approximately forty are active ACS members - fourteen are accredited judges.

Several are members of the Southern California Camellia Society, the New Zealand Camellia Society and the International Camellia Society. The club has been represented at ALL ACS meetings in recent years. Other members are currently serving as officers or directors of the North Carolina Camellia Society, the Gulf Coast Camellia Society and the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.

But camellias are the business for the members of the Charlotte Club. Growing, showing and winning once in a while. Members travel annually to shows in cities like Gainesville, Florida; Mobile, Alabama; Memphis, Tennessee; Norfolk, Virginia, and many in between. As one travelling member said, "I just enjoy the good friends I meet all over the South."

Every two or three years the club puts together a camellia garden at the prestigious Southern Living Show - one of these gardens was featured in the 1976 ACS Yearbook. The rewards for their effort are given to the ACS Endowment Fund. Total contributions to the ACS from this and other sources by the Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte, to date, is more than six thousand dollars.

Next year the club is honored to be host to the 1982 American Camellia Society Convention from March 4 - 6, at Charlotte's new Sheraton Center. "It's been a team effort to put together a great meeting," says convention director, Graem Yates.

It has been 28 years since Frank and Elizabeth Dowd displayed their camellias in downtown Charlotte. In this same spirit of pride and sharing, the club invites you to Charlotte, to join them in having a memorable time.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

ACS ANNUAL MEETING, CHARLOTTE, N.C.

MARCH 4-6, 1982

Thursday, March 4

- 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Registration (Lobby, Sheraton Center).
- 2:00 p.m. ACS Board and Committee Meetings.
- 2:00 p.m. Busses leave Sheraton Center for escorted tour to Cannon Mill's Fashion Shoppe and the Cannon Museum.
- 8:00 p.m. Opening session of Convention. Speaker: Dr. Kevin J. Soden. Subject: "Camellias, an Alternative to Stress".
- 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open.

Friday, March 5

- 8:00 a.m. Registration.
- 7:30 a.m. No-host continental breakfast in Convention Center Lobby.
- 8:30 a.m. Shuttle busses leave for Southern Living Show at Charlotte Merchandise Mart.
- 11:00 a.m. Busses return from Southern Living Show.
- 12:00 noon Buffet luncheon at Sheraton Center.
- 1:00 p.m. Camellia Seminar with panel of Camellia experts. You MUST attend this session to qualify for TV sets.
- 2:45 p.m. Break (coffee, soft drinks).
- 3:00 p.m. Second Session of Seminar.
- 6:00 p.m. Cocktail party (No host).
- 7:30 p.m. "Tarheel Teardown" - Sheraton Center, featuring Carolina country ham, grits 'n red-eye gravy, black-eyed peas, and all that good eatin' you find in Tarheelia! Appalachian cloggers perform! VERY casual dress. Bring your overalls.

- 10:00 a.m.-12 noon & 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open.
- Saturday, March 6

1982 Men's Camellia Club Annual Camellia Show (The show will be held at Eastland Mall, one of the South's finest shopping malls. Shuttle busses will run from the Sheraton Center to Eastland from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 7:30 a.m. No-host Continental Breakfast.
- 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Complimentary Deli-buffet luncheon. Have lunch to fit your schedule! Included in Registration fee.
- 6:00 p.m. ACS President's Cocktail Party.
- 7:00 p.m. ACS Convention Banquet. Featured speaker will be Dr. Tom Haggai one of America's (and the world's) most requested speakers. Nationally broadcast radio commentator on "Values for Better Living", and a Tar-Heel by choice.

MINIATURES ARE NO SMALL DEAL

Ivan J. Mitchell, Melrose, FL

There was a time, especially deep in Dixie, when a man who raised miniatures was looked at with askance. And if he had the temerity to enter them in a show, he was even more suspect — maybe like a guy who might clandestinely cast a republican ballot. Recently, horticultural bigotry was overcome in a dramatic way when a miniature camellia was elected to receive the coveted Illges Award Medal! There may be a few dyed in the wool fanciers of the old school still in deep shock since 'Man Size', first recipient of the John A. Tyler, Jr. Miniature Award, was proclaimed the latest Illges Award winner.

Camellia miniatures travelled a long and rocky road before achieving any degree of popularity or success. It was not until cooperative camellia shows established miniature classes in the horticultural divisions that enthusiasm for these diminutive cultivars zoomed, and they began to be propagated in earnest. Exhibitors no longer regarded them with the same jaundiced eye when they found they could actually win a piece of silver with these under-sized entries.

Early impetus to the increased interest in miniature varieties was initiated in California, largely through the combined efforts of amateur growers, nurserymen, and the Southern California Camellia Society. The McCaskill Gardens, located in Pasadena, was probably the first nursery in this country to propagate and feature new miniature introductions. Mr. William E. Wylam, of the same city, was known to be an avid miniature enthusiast and collector. The William E. Wylam Miniature Award — actually a boutonniere award — was created in his honor in 1962, and sponsored by the Southern California

Camellia Society. Camellia Nomenclature, periodically updated and published by the Southern California Camellia Society, became the designated authority for all camellia classifications, including miniatures.

Additional interest and enthusiasm was generated in miniature camellias in 1979 when the American Camellia Society established the John A. Tyler, Jr. Miniature Award in honor of the late John A. Tyler, Jr., Past President of the South Carolina Camellia Society, and a Vice President of the American Camellia Society.

While many miniatures are grown as landscape plants, or for their dainty cut flowers to be used for corsages, as boutonnieres, or in flower arrangements, they are even more highly prized for their potential as prize winning show flowers. It is primarily from this viewpoint that this article is written.

Nearly every cooperative camellia show provides for miniature entries in the horticultural schedule, with an award for the best miniature bloom, of any species, in the show. There are two basic requirements mandated by A.C.S.: All qualified entries must be listed as minatures in the latest issue of Camellia Nomenclature, or subsequent issues of the Camellia Journal, and must not exceed a diametric maximum of 2½ inches. (Unlisted varieties may be given a ribbon, but not an A.C.S. award or an A.C.S. certificate.)

The published size of varieties listed in Camellia Nomenclature, including miniatures, is for a typical, untreated, outdoor grown bloom of that variety. The size listed is usually that entered on the registration application completed by the originator, or from other initial sources in the case of unregistered plants. Varieties are sub-

ject to reclassification if widespread growing experience indicates that need.

In the past quarter century, many cultural developments have taken place that have contributed much to the growing and showing of camellias. Three of these have an important bearing on miniatures, and to some extent may or may not be counterproductive. For example:

- 1) Gibberellic acid is most helpful in accelerating the blooming period of camellias. Many of the miniatures are mid-season to late bloomers. At the same time, more and more camellias shows are being staged in October, November, and December each year. Unfortunately, gib often increases the size of the little fellows, at least some varieties, to more than the 2½ inch maximum.
- 2) The growing of camellias has expanded rapidly into the colder geographic areas, concurrent with the widespread use of plastic covered greenhouses. These same cool houses that spawn such fantastically large show blooms, sometimes enlarge the measurements of choice miniature blooms also — occasionally to more than the 2½ inch permissible limit.
- 3) Most camellia fanciers have developed expertise in grafting, and they exercise that skill in impatiently acquiring hot show numbers by grafting the prized scions on robust understock — which usually responds by initially producing larger than average blooms. This is great when grafting such varieties as 'Elegans Champagne', but not when the graft is 'Tammia', 'Mini Pink', 'Botan Yuki', or some other choice miniature cultivar.

Some of the early fall shows are

combining the small and miniature classes into a single boutonniere class, restricted to entries of blooms 3 inches or less. However, this does not suspend the requirement that miniatures must not exceed 2½ inches in diameter. It does continue to focus attention on the two petite classes, and swells the entries for the combined class to a more respectable showing.

The blooms of some camellia cultivars consistently vary in size. That is why some of the boutonnieres are classed as "miniature to small", and can be legitimately entered and judged as either miniature or small blooms. In the 1981 Historical Edition of Camellia Nomenclature, 'Tammia' and 'Grace Albritton', for example, were reclassified to "miniature to small". There are probably more likely candidates for this same reclassification, such as 'Kitty'. At one time it was a winner of many miniature awards, but for several years has been classified as "small". (Our 15 year graft of 'Kitty', completely unaware of the change, continues to bloom faithfully as a miniature, like the plant of 'Kitty' at Massee Lane.)

My wife and I have been in love with the boutonnieres for many years, and we have a number of choice miniature and small varieties in our camellia plantings. My interest was intensified when I was asked to serve a couple of times on the John A. Tyler, Jr. Miniature Award committee. During that time I learned a lot from the other very knowledgeable members of that committee. (I will not give their names, as some may still be serving). I searched through my camellia library, but could find few articles on miniatures. It seemed to be a minority subject indeed. At camellia shows, society meetings, and on other opportune occasions, I asked questions of fellow judges, nurserymen, and amateur growers. I came to the conclusion that, with a few

exceptions, most of us were a bit less "up" on miniatures than most other things camellia wise.

Size, the very element that distinguishes the boutonnieres — the miniature and small varieties — from all other classes, occasionally causes some confusion in entering and judging these Lilliputian blooms. However, most of these problems can be prevented by anticipating and avoiding them.

The horticultural schedule should spell out that qualified miniature entries, of any species, must be listed as such in Camellia Nomenclature, and must not exceed 2½ inches in diameter. The Chairman of judges should endeavor to appoint an accredited judge that has had experience in growing, showing, and judging miniatures, if possible, to head up the judging team assigned to judge the miniature class. Since "guess-timating" sizes is not always a dependable method, sizing rings, sizing discs, or some other satisfactory measuring device, should be available — and should be used. One camellia society prints a handy 6 or 7 inch linear scale along one edge of the horticultural schedule, helpful to both judges and exhibitors.

In all competitive divisions except seedlings and mutants, a maximum of 15 points, out of a total of 100, are allocated for size — size according to the best that can be expected of a variety. The trend for years seems to have been "big is better", and many judges tend to mentally award all 15 size points to the largest bloom in contention, all other things being at least equal. This may be all right when judging the medium, large, or extra large specimens - but is not all right when judging miniatures. Here, smallness becomes the sacred criterion and excess size becomes a penalty factor. In fact, if the bloomsize exceeds the max-

imum 2½ inch permissible diametric limit, all 15 size points are in forfeit. This effectively renders such a bloom ineligible for miniature competition.

Miniatures have come of age, and are no longer small fry. They are now big time. But perhaps we are remiss in failing to do for these delightful and beautiful little camellias some of the things that have been done so well for their bigger kin folk. Maybe now is the time to start doing something. Here are a few suggestions for openers:

- 1) Carolina Camellias, Camellia Review, and The Camellia Journal might solicit selected articles about miniatures. The American Camellia Society might consider a special issue of Camellia Journal devoted to the boutonnieres, as well as selected Yearbook articles, such as "Choosing the Best Miniature in the Show".
- 2) Changes in varietal size classifications made by the Camellia Research Committee are presently included in the next updated issue of Camellia Nomenclature. Since this splendid publication will henceforth be published triennially, it would be good if reclassification changes — particularly those involving the boutonnieres — could be immediately and simultaneously sent to A.C.S., Carolina Camellias, Camellia Review, and possibly to I.C.S., New Zealand, and Australian publications. This would cost little, but would facilitate prompt dissemination of these changes through out much of the camellia world.
- 3) It would be really nice if authoritative data on showing and judging the boutonniere classes could be found in one place — similar to Book Two of Procedures and Judging of Cooperative Shows, 1978 A.C.S. Yearbook.

Book Two specifically deals with seedlings and mutants, and has effectively clarified this formerly confused area, a similar book on miniature and small classes would be invaluable.

- 4) Finally, it might be beneficial to include the judging of boutonnieres at future judging schools and refreshers.

I once read that one of our nation's greatest humanitarians reportedly said upon meeting the man who was to become his dearest friend, "Instinctively I don't like this man, I must get to know him better". Just wonder what would happen if some of our camellia enthusiasts, who still retain an antipathy for the little ones, should acquire choice specimens of 'Man Size', 'Grace Albritton', 'Little Slam', 'Fir Cone', or 'Fragrant Pink' — and get to know them better?



"Now, this is how you make Beaufort Stew—" Our host, Oliver (Buck) Mizzell

S.C.C.S. SUMMER BOARD MEETING

August 1, 1981

Supplemented by some of our N.C. "buddies", 32 guests enjoyed the hospitality extended to us by our hosts: President Oliver and wife Tyler Mizzell, and Lawanda and Elliott Brogden. Board members and their spouses converged upon the lake home (recently renovated by Oliver and Tyler themselves). A good time was had by all, and the delicious "Beaufort Stew" concocted by President Buck lent credence to his reputation as a chef!

After these preliminaries, Buck called the meeting to order. The minutes were read and corrected to restate the reference to gift subscriptions at \$5.00, to read: inside continental states, only.

Treasurer Elliott reported a balance of \$1388.36 and the arrival soon of the annual interest from the \$5000.00 certificate. There are no outstanding bills. The board approved Elliott's suggestion that the membership roster be deleted from the 1982 "Carolina Camellias". The board voted to resume the plant auctions, at least, once a year, to broaden our financial base. It was urged that all of us initiate action within our own local societies to obtain new members.

It was also suggested that at this same meeting, we invite A.C.C.S. to use "Carolina Camellias" for their official organ.

The board approved the motion made by Geary Serpas and seconded by Ed Ulmer, to send \$100.00 to Dr. Baxter for continued camellia research at Clemson University.

Editor Jim McCoy requested the purchase of a tape recorder. Permission was granted for this asset to his job providing its cost doesn't exceed \$100.00.

Members are reminded that S.C.C.S. are hosting a "Luau" at 5:00 on Friday, October 2 at the A.C.C.S. See you there, by the poolside, at the Holiday Inn!

DO YOU HAVE ANY LIKE THESE?

In the last issue of *Carolina Camellias* there was an article entitled, "World's Most Beautiful Camellia?" It was a tribute to the spiral form camellia in general, specifically to the camellia 'Vergine di Colle Beato'. Since then, quite a few spiral forms have been brought to the author's attention. Most of these (if not all) do not produce all spiral form blooms. Some produce this form more often than others. When a spiral form does appear, it is often so beautiful till one falls in love with camellias all over again just by contemplating it. Here are some camellias that produce this form often enough to be called "a spiral form camellia."

The one that everyone thinks of when spiral form camellias are mentioned is 'Vergine di Colle Beato.' This is the one made famous by Verschaffelt and the Italian Camellia Society. It is not widely grown in the States and few have seen it. A respected New Zealand camellia grower who has grown it says: "Only about 10 percent come good. All the rest form double centers and are quite worthless." So much for Verschaffelt!

New Zealand offers three. One that I am impatiently looking forward to seeing is 'James Lockington.' It was described by Col. Tom Durrant in the 1962-63 ACS yearbook. His description of it is exciting indeed: "the plant — stands in full sun and carries large numbers of flowers, blooming rather late in the season. We saw it first on a hot, sunny and rather windy day and there were no signs of wilt or weather damage. Careful examination showed no flowers of any other formation." The really amazing thing is that Col. Durrant is talking about a white camellia, very similar to 'Vergine di Colle Beato' but with five spirals instead of seven. He says that 'James Lockington' is the most reliable of the spiral forms that he

has grown.

Another New Zealand spiral form is named 'Durrant's Dilemma!' This camellia certainly has an interesting name. It makes one wonder if the dilemma was whether to register it or not. Actually, Col. Durrant did not register it. Someone else did. I have heard that it produces a high proportion of very good seven spiral blooms. I have also heard from one who has grown it that it is "perhaps slightly above 'dog' level." We shall see which of my informants is right. One thing for certain, it won at least one ACS seedling certificate of merit.

The third New Zealand spiral form is a "very attractive red spiral" which has not been registered nor offered to the public.

The only spiral form that I can find of Japanese origin is named 'Beni-Giku'. It is not listed in our nomenclature book but its originator is Mr. Yoshiaki Andoh. It is rose red, 6 cm more or less, formal, with pointed narrow petals, the leaves are small and slender, heavily undulated with fine serrations and pointed apices. According to Mr. Andoh, the spiral form is not stable.

From Taiwan we have an extremely interesting cultivar that throws the spiral form sometimes. It is named 'Jutre'. Professor Waterhouse* described it as follows: "10.5 cm across, hexagon in shape, reddish in colour, 18 layers, petals 108, calyx 17-18, shape and colour of flowers always different from each other.

Professor Waterhouse describes in the same article another spiral form from Taiwan called 'Chichu'. Professor Waterhouse's description of 'Chichu': "...flowers 8 cm across, 14 layers, petals 102, calyx 14 lobes, reddish in colour and with some white stripes, hexagon and spiral in shape...."

Mr. Meyer Piet of Arcadia California

has produced a spiral form seedling of striking beauty judging by slides we have seen. It has been described as dark red, 2-2½ inches across with the spiral form. I believe that Mr. Piet is still evaluating this seedling and has not yet decided whether or not to register it.

Mr. Emerson Waltz of Perry Hall, Maryland has registered a white spiral form cultivar named 'Eleanor Waltz.' We have not seen even a slide of this exciting camellia but one of our friends on the west coast tells us that it is a "must have" camellia in his estimation. Mr. Waltz has not released it yet, but plans to do so soon.

In the winter 1981 issue of Carolina Camellias we described 'Redbird'. This is J.M. Haynie's introduction, propagated by Ray Gentry. It is dark red and eye-catching.

The picture of 'Elizabeth Cooper' on the cover of the ACS journal for November 1977 shows a white swirl form flower of exquisite beauty. It is officially described as a white, medium formal double with swirled petals. We

do not yet have this cultivar in our collection but hope to get it.

We hear of another interesting one from Melrose, Florida. Mr. Ivan Mitchell has a seedling of 'Berenice Boddy' that is a miniature to small. He describes it as being rose pink, formal and many of the blooms open with the prized swirl formation. He has not registered it but may do so some day. He calls it 'JoCinda.'

The last swirl form that we will mention is Tammia's 'Purple Swirl' This is a small formal flower with five complete swirls. It is an award winner on occasion.

There are others, no doubt, such as the Dodd's 'Aunt Fan' which is not available, and a pink swirl form of unknown origin which is grown by some here in the east. It is not registered but goes by the unimaginative name 'Pink Spiral'. If you know of any others, the editor would like to be informed. He is trying to assemble all the spiral or swirl form cultivars in one glorious spot!

CAROLINA CAMELIAS

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WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD ALREADY KNOW ABOUT GIBBING

By Col. (Ret.) R.D. Hicks, Ozark, Ala.

Over 40 years ago I began growing camellias and have tinkered around a good bit in trying to learn more about the characteristics of this beautiful flower. In 1966, while living in Virginia, I did a fairly comprehensive study involving the gibbing of approximately 1,000 buds on about 400 plants. Bloom time, bloom condition, and varietal name was recorded for each bud gibbed. This general study plus subsequent studies conducted in Alabama produced a number of findings that should now be a matter of common knowledge.

Gib will not supplant poor cultural practices. Buds gibbed on unthrifty plants will produce mediocre flowers. Some gibbed buds do not bloom in a typical manner. They may open up almost overnight after gibbing or remain unopened for months. Occasionally a bloom will open mal-formed while another bud gibbed at the same time and on the same plant may produce a handsome flower. "Double gibbing" (gibbing the same bud a week or so later) does not result in earlier or larger blooms. Gibbing seems to become less effective as normal bloom time nears. In September and October some varieties have buds adequate for gibbing with adjacent growth buds under-developed. Removal of the under-developed growth bud provides little holding space for the drop of gib. Re-gibbing such buds several times at daily intervals will compensate for the gib run-off. The amount of gib absorbed seems to be more important than the strength used. When disbudding, if other things are equal, remove the vertical or highest bloom bud. This may provide a more suitable cup when the growth bud is removed at a later date

for gibbing. It also facilitates bloom packing for shows since the stem comes off at an angle and allows the flower to lie flat in the container. Minatures, more so than other classes, react differently to gib. Varieties such as 'Man Size', 'Firione', and 'Dryade' will bloom earlier without appreciable increase in size. Varieties such as 'Bon Bon', 'Tootsie', and 'Thirty Drops' will blow up like balloons. Most judges take a dim view of over-size minatures. Gibbed or ungibbed, the size and quality of flowers decrease as more blooms open any specific plant. This should behoove show growers to go lightly on gibbing for Fall and early Winter shows.

Some subscribe to the belief that gibbing will kill plants. In earlier years I gibbed large plants heavily. Over a period of several years I lost most of them (over 100). They did not die overnight but gradually lost vigor and did not respond to severe pruning. Four years ago I gibbed several small plants heavily. They produced excellent blooms but remained dormant during the following growing season. They did not die but have not yet regained their former vigor. I still gib but do it in moderation.

By disposition and definition, camellias open up at different times during the blooming season. Varietal blooming habits area described in "Camellia Nomenclature". These differences must be taken into account if all classes are to be brought into bloom at a desired time. For convenience in gibbing, my Early to Mid-season (E/M) name tags are red, Mid-season (M) tags white, and Mid-season to Late (M/L) tags yellow. Early varieties are tagged red and Late varieties tagged yellow with a hole

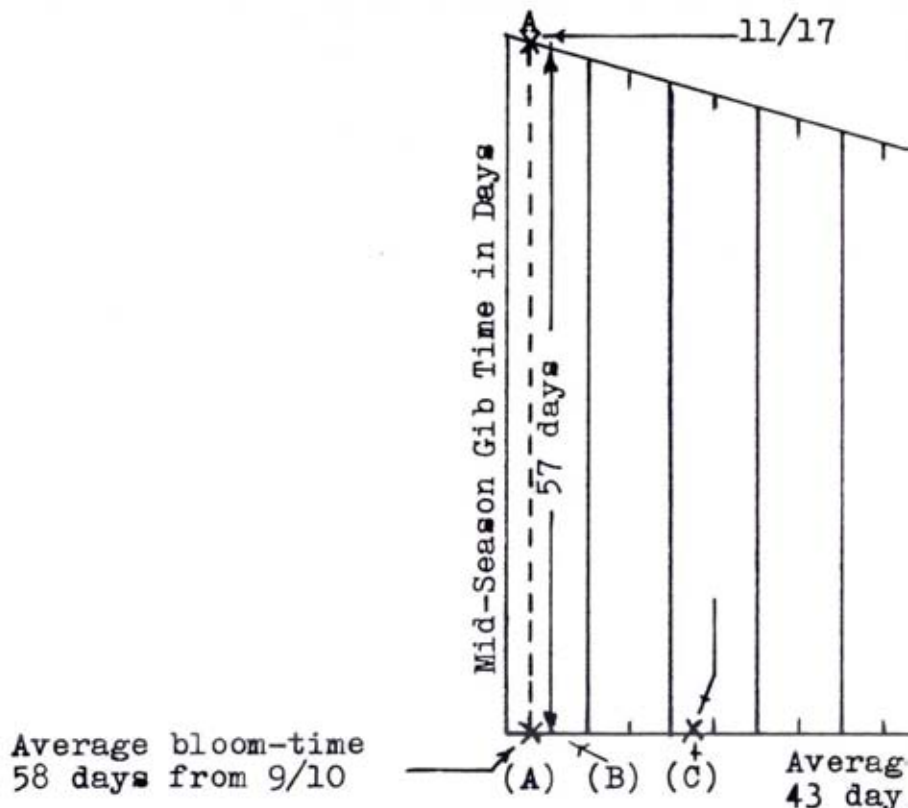
punched in the end. I have only a few of these.

The often asked question: "When should I gib?" has no universal answer. This is something that one must work out for himself. Geographical location, greenhouse temperature maintained, amount of shade, humidity, and other factors make each grower's average bloom time unique. The following study, based on averages arrived at in earlier years, was simulated to illustrate how an individual gib schedule may be established. The resulting schedule was the one I used for the 1980-1981 season. My 1981-1982 schedules will be established by gibbing one day earlier to compensate for calendar change in Saturday dates.

On September 10th I gibbed three buds on 20 plants classified as (M) varieties. Buds were selected as nearly the same size as possible and each bud was tagged. Number of days from gib date to bloom time was recorded for each bud. Any buds opening unusually early or unusually late were discarded since they were not typical. Bloom time for the others was added together and the total was divided by the number of buds included. This resulted in an average bloom time of 58 days. This average was plotted on a vertical graph line (See Graph, Point "A" - 1/16" equals one day). The average was added to the gib date (September 10th) and point "A" was determined to be Friday, November 7th. This date was moved forward on the base line to the nearest Saturday (one day to November 8th) and was designated as point "B". From point "B" increments of seven days were marked along the base line for each Saturday during the ensuing show season. On November 20th (point "C") the process for buds gibbed on September 10th was duplicated.

Average bloom time for this group was found to be 43 days. This average was extended forward to point "D" (January 2nd). At this point 43 days were plotted on a vertical line (See Graph). Vertical points "A" and "D" were connected by a line extending over the entire show season. Three bar charts were laid out under the graph base line and designated (M/L), (M), and (E/M). Show dates and locations were shown above the bar charts. Average bloom time was calculated for each Saturday by measuring the number of days from base line to diagonal line and recording on Bar Chart (M). Viz: 1/3/81 (Panama City) minus 42 days indicated 11/22 as correct date to gib for (M) varieties. Earlier studies indicated that (E/M) varieties bloom an average of 10 days earlier than (M) varieties and (M/L) varieties bloom an average of 20 days later than (M) varieties. Bar Chart (M/L) was prepared by subtracting 20 from each (M) gib date. Bar Chart (E/M) was prepared by adding 10 days to each (M) gib date. The three classes studied had a normal bloom span of about 30 days. Approximately 50% opened within a period of seven days before and seven days after the target date. Most of this group clustered around the calculated bloom date. The remaining 50% were about equally divided - one half on each side of the central group. Due to this wide span, ungibbed buds begin to open along with gibbed buds as the blooming season progresses.

The would-be gibber may need information concerning proportions of water and gib for various strength solutions. The following is an equation from which any of the four variables may be calculated if the other three are known or assumed. While not included in most Weights & Measures Conversion Tables, one gram (1,000



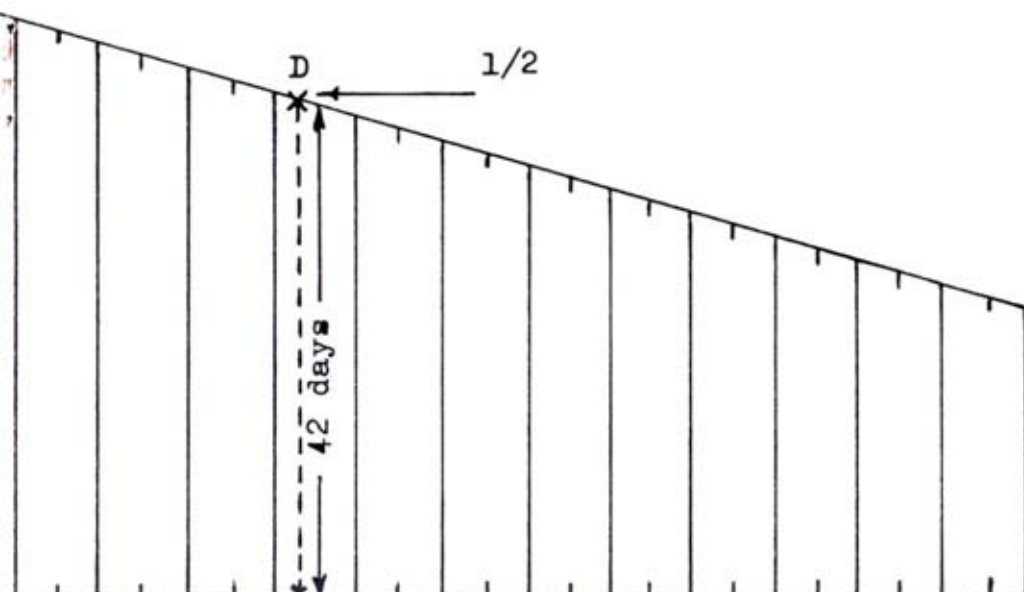
SHOW PLACES

SHOW DATES

	11/8 Masee Lane	11/15 Greenville	11/22 Charleston	11/29	12/6 Tallahassee
MID-SEASON TO LATE (Mid-Season plus 20) (Days and Gib Date)	(77) 8/23	(75) 9/1	(73) 9/10	(71) /19	(69) /29
MID-SEASON (Days and Gib Date)	(57) 9/12	(55) /21	(53) /30	(51) 10/9	(49) /19
EARLY TO MID-SEASON (Mid-Season minus 10) (Days and Gib Date)	(47) 9/22	(45) 10/1	(43) /10	(41) /19	(39) /29

-GREENHOUSE GIB SCHEDULE FOR OZARK AL 1980-1981-

Graph Legend: 1/16" equals one day



bloom time
from 11/20 (D)

12/13	12/20	12/27	1/3 Panama City	1/10 Pensacola	1/17 Mobile	1/24 Fort Walton	1/31 Tuscaloosa	2/7	2/14 Birmingham	2/21 Atlanta	2/28 Charlotte
(67)	(66)	(64)	(62)	(60)	(58)	(56)	(55)	(53)	(51)	(50)	(47)
10/8	/15	/24	11/2	/11	/20	/29	12/7	/16	/26	1/2	/12
(47)	(46)	(44)	(42)	(40)	(38)	(36)	(35)	(33)	(31)	(30)	(27)
/28	11/5	/13	/22	12/1	/10	/19	/27	1/5	/14	/22	2/1
(37)	(36)	(34)	(32)	(30)	(28)	(26)	(25)	(23)	(21)	(20)	(17)
11/7	/15	/23	12/2	/11	/20	/29	1/6	/16	/26	2/1	/11

mgs) equals one cubic centimeter (cc) of distilled water.

Amount (Grams) x 1,000 mgs x %
Gib

Amount of water (ccs) x 1,000
Equals

Parts per million

1,000,000

Viz: To find ppm for one gram of
80% gib mixed with 60 ccs water

1 x 1,000 x 80% equals X

60 x 1,000 equals 1,000,000

60,000X equals 800,000,000 ppm X
equals 13,333 ppm

One gram of gib powder is a very small amount but can be divided. Crease a piece of paper, pour the powder in the crease, lay paper flat, and as closely as possible, halve the longitudinal pile of gib with a knife blade. The resulting halves may be further divided. Precision in dividing is of no great importance. It has been reported that favorable bud response is about the same for strengths from 10,000 ppm to 20,000 ppm. I use 60

ccs of distilled water to one gram of potassium gib as a matter of convenience in measuring. Pharmaceutical bottles have graduated scales for measurement of both ccs and fluid ounces. Use of potassium acid has several advantages. The solution does not require refrigeration, needs no additives for solvency, and requires no filtering. My acid comes from Belle Fontaine Nursery, Route #3, Box #546, Theodore, Ala. 36582. Powdered form comes in one gram phials with mixing formulas for several approximate strenghts. Prepared solutions are also available.

Gib has brought about a new dimension to camellia growing and showing. The greenhouse grower can have excellent flowers during a much longer blooming season. The outside grower, even in cold climates, can have an abundance of blooms during Fall and early Winter as well as in Spring. If you have not already done so, try it and you will like it.

SERENDIPITY STRIKES AGAIN!

Luther W. Baxter, Jr.

On the front of the journal, Carolina Camellias, Volume XXXIII, the 1981 spring issue (number 2), there is a beautiful picture of 'Berenice Beauty'. Part, or all, of the picture is upside down, but a careful examination of the picture shows a beautiful example of a leaf scar near the bottom of the picture. A leaf or its leaf scar always subtends either a bud or a branch developed from that bud.

The issue involved is the leaf scar for it is this structure that provides a place for spores of *Glomerella cingulata* to enter. *Glomerella* is the fungus which causes contagious dieback and canker of camellias. Usually an old, yellow leaf drops from the branch during windy or rainy weather and the scar left allows the fungus to get inside the stem tissue. The leaf scar, however, is sensitive for only a day or so at most, so the primary time for the fungus spores to be dislodged and spread is during a rain. If the leaf falls off during dry sunny weather, no harm is done. This is one of the best pictures showing a camellia leaf scar that I have seen, and I'm sure it was done unintentionally by the photographer...thus serendipity...



Mildred Robertson, Aiken, SC

When Jim asked me to write about my favorite old Camellia, my first thought was 'Mathotiana'. A plant of this variety was Bill's and my introduction to the Camellia. Knowing absolutely nothing about Camellias, we purchased one plant - a 'Mathotiana' - planted it in the yard of our first home, nurtured it and watched it grow. When we were rewarded with large pink blooms having lovely rosebud centers we were ecstatic. We were struck with the beauty of the bloom and set out to learn more about these flowers. From this chance beginning, our interest in Camellias grew. We do not keep a 'Mathotiana' in our greenhouse, and I would suspect very few people do, but it will always remain one of our favorites, especially for the yard.

Another one of our early oldies is 'Leucantha'. This, too, is in the yard since it was acquired before the days of our greenhouse. We have found it to be a prolific bloomer and very cold hardy. Many times we have gone out on the morning of a winter show and picked blooms which won court of honor. Its pure white color, medium size and brilliant yellow stamens make it a good choice for a corsage and it can always be depended upon to provide blooms.

There are, of course, many other old varieties which could qualify as "favorites" but these are two which always come first to my mind. Because they were our first Camellias, they will always be quite special to me. Had they not responded to our treatment in the manner which they did, we might never have become fascinated with Camellias and pursued this hobby which has become so much a part of our lives and which we enjoy so much.

MAKE ROOM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

whatever means necessary so that we may keep our gem of the Orient living on and on in its newly adopted home. Camellias do respond to tender, loving care. If you lack the stately pines, build a lath arrangement around the east, south, and

west sides of the plant about two feet higher than the plant.

The camellia already has her place in the dictionary and encyclopedia — why not make a place in your garden and your life for a camellia of your choice?

QUICK AS A FLASH

(A Working Man's Handy Helper)

Marion Edwards

Jacksonville, Fl

All of the articles I have read regarding close-up photography of camellia blooms state the best possible light is morning sunlight. If I depended upon using morning sunlight, I wouldn't use a single roll of film during the entire blooming season.

I have a full time job, leaving home shortly after dawn and returning at twilight. I will attend a show on half of the weekends during the blooming season. It seems as though the weather is always bad on the weekends I stay home, either too cloudy or too windy.

My small \$16.00 electronic flash is a lifesaver. When I am cutting blooms during the week prior to a show, I place my best blooms on a square of black velvet on the kitchen table and shoot. I have also photographed blooms still on the plant in almost total darkness having someone shine a flashlight on the bloom long enough for me to focus. I don't worry about it being too windy as the duration of the flash is only 1/2000 of a second.

The existing light at Camellia Shows I attend is not suitable for close-up photography. Some shows have fluorescent lamps while the remainder have a combination of incandescent lamps and daylight. Either type of lighting requires color compensating filters if you are to obtain optimum color rendition.

At least six different types of fluorescent lamps are available with each different type requiring filter or combination of filters. Without knowing the type of lamp in use, you would have to make a guess as to the filter or combination of filters to use. The combination of incandescent lamps and

daylight would require an expert on filters to determine what is required.

The low level of existing light would require the camera to be mounted on a tripod when using the small apertures necessary for depth of field. A tripod would not be welcome at any of the shows in this area.

I prefer to keep it simple, mounting the flash unit in the hot shoe of the camera. I don't have to worry about filters or tripods and have a dependable source of light which is balanced for the color slide film I use.

I use a 35 mm Nikon FE SLR camera with a 55 mm Nikkor macro lens. The price of a macro lens is approximately twice that of a normal lens but is well worth the additional cost. The lens has an aperture range of f 2.8 - f 32. It will focus from 9 inches out to infinity. At 9 inches, I am able to fill the 1" wide film with a 2" object, giving a 1:2 reproduction ratio.

A normal 50 mm lens will not focus closer than 18 or 20 inches. At this range, you will be able to obtain 1:8 or 1:10 reproduction. Close-up supplementary lens are available. These lens screw into the front of the lens the same as a filter. This is an economical method of using your existing lens and reproductions close to 1:3 can be obtained.

My flash unit is a manual Vivitar 51. A Sima soft-light diffuser is attached to the flash. This unit then produces a diffused light with a Guide Number of 28 when used with ASA 100 film. I have tried most of the available slide films and find that Fujichrome 100 gives the best results. I use aperture settings of f-22 for all small and miniature blooms, f-16 for medium and large dark col-

ored blooms and f-19 for medium and large white and pale pink blooms.

This combination of a macro lens, small aperture settings, diffused light and Fujichrome 100 film has produced some very good slides, some almost equal to slides taken using morning sunlight. This combination is the result of a lot of trial and error on my part. I am sure other photographers use different combinations which are just good or better.

The Vivitar 51 flash and Sima Soft-Light diffuser are no longer produced. I have tested other flash units and can recommend several which should give good results.

The Hitacon Mini has a Guide Number of 32 when used with 100 ASA film. This is a little too strong and to get good results, I have closed down the aperture by $\frac{1}{2}$ stop and use settings of f-27, f-19 and f-22 instead of almost clear sheet plastic over the flash and used the same aperture settings as listed for the Vivitar 51. The best results were obtained using the later method.

Most automatic electronic flash units are not suitable for close-up photography; however, I have tried and can recommend the Vivitar 2500 or

3500 when equipped with the Vivitar MFS-1 accessory. The best results have been obtained when the auxiliary wide angle diffuser is in place and aperture settings of f-22 for miniature and small blooms, f-16 for medium and large blooms and f-19 for medium and large white and pale pink blooms is used.

The minimum aperture of most normal lens is f-16. If you are using a normal lens with close-up supplemental lens, try using a manual flash unit with a Guide Number in the 55-60 range for 100 ASA film. Place a piece of white plastic over the flash. I cut a piece from the small garbage bags produced by several firms. Use aperture settings of f-16 for all small and miniature blooms, f-11 for all dark colored medium and large blooms and f-14 for all medium and large white and pale pink blooms.

I have received a great deal of pleasure from the photographs I have made during the past two blooming seasons. Pleasant memories of shows and exhibitors return every time I view the slides. I enjoy sharing this pleasure and will attempt to answer any questions the reader might have relating to close-up photography.

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AUNT ELOISE CHANGES HER MIND

James H. McCoy

Fayetteville, N.C.

My Uncle Bert went to work up North, got married up there and stayed. The family didn't know his wife, except that her name was Eloise. So Aunt Eloise, though nobody knew her, became a part of the family.

One year, when I was about ten, the part of the country where Uncle Bert lived (I think it was Buffalo) had a very severe winter - snow up to the eaves, a lot of ice and dreadfully cold. Uncle Bert wrote my Grandmother Gordon and asked her if Aunt Eloise could come down to South Carolina and spend the rest of the winter. I guess he remembered from his youth how nice, comparatively speaking, the winter months were back home. He also wrote Aunt Janie and asked her the same thing. He knew the answers before he even mailed the letters. People were like that then. I remember my mother laughing and telling about Cousin Josie who came for Sunday dinner and stayed 15 years.

Anyway, Aunt Eloise decided to wait till she got down South to decide whether she would stay with my Grandmother or Aunt Janie. They lived on opposite sides of the swamp, not very far as the crow flies, but about 5 miles the way the road ran.

I went to the train station at Oswego to meet Aunt Eloise. I took the 2-horse wagon as that was the only one available at the time. It's a good thing that I did for Aunt Eloise had 2 trunks and 5 suitcases. She was dressed like she was going to church with a flower covered black hat and black gloves, the tops of which disappeared under her floppy sleeves.

She didn't much want to get in the wagon but finally did, as there was no other way to go. She sat on the board seat with me, and I'm sure that she must have looked like a rose in a briar

patch.

I took her first to my Grandmother's house and then, without even unloading the baggage, over to Aunt Janie's. She looked both houses over, even inspecting the rooms which would be hers. She decided that she'd stay with my Grandmother Gordon. I was sorry when she told me, as I didn't like her from the moment I saw her.

Well, my grandmother felt the same way about her after the first morning in her house, but Aunt Eloise never had reason to suspect. After all, Aunt Eloise was family and therefore due all respect and courtesy, no matter how "onery" she might be.

My grandmother took her out to see her camellias (japonicas, she called them) that first morning. The japonicas were her pride and joy. She had a couple dozen of them. I don't know what varieties they were except that there were several 'Alba Plenas', one which my grandmother called 'Miss Bessie's Pink', and of course 'Sister Pet' out by the back door. Aunt Eloise didn't like japonicas. She said that they didn't have any stems and no perfume. She said, "Give me a rose, any day."

She didn't like anything. She said that the rocking chairs on the piazza were too hard, the feather tick too soft. She saw the cook making biscuits one morning and kneading the dough with her hands. She wouldn't touch another biscuit. My Grandmother Gordon said, "but Eloise, how else can you make biscuits?"

We took her one day to a picnic at Pocallo Springs. I don't remember the occasion, but several families of the community were there. The ladies had brought food and it was all spread out on a long wooden table. You would go down the table, getting whatever you wanted and would eat sitting on the

ground or on whatever you could find to sit on. Aunt Eloise didn't like that. "I don't like being treated like cattle. Imagine, standing up to eat!"

Then, after Aunt Eloise had been there about two weeks, my Grandmother Gordon announced that she was going fishing. She invited Aunt Eloise to go along, and to her surprise, she said that she would.

There was a big pond, covering several acres, only a few hundred yards from the house. It was called the Savanna. The water wasn't very deep but it was full of fish, mostly catfish and mawmouths (bass, I believe). It was on my grandmother's place, and was fenced with hog wire, but everybody who wanted to, fished there. She didn't mind. She said, "I didn't put those fish there. The Lord did. They don't belong to me anymore than they do to anybody else."

To get to the water from our house, you would have to walk through the flower garden, through the apple orchard, climb over the wire fence, walk another couple hundred yards and there was the water and the boat. The boat was flat bottomed, with a seat at each end and a built-in fish box in the middle. The fish box had holes in the bottom so that the water in the box would always be the depth of the boat in the water. It had a hinged top.

I sat at the back because I had to row. Aunt Eloise with her flowered hat and gloves, sat in the front and my grandmother Gordon sat on the fish box. I had to bait Aunt Eloise's hook for her because she was afraid of worms.

Well, it wasn't long before my grandmother caught a catfish, then another. Aunt Eloise hadn't caught anything, and I hadn't even wet a hook, so busy I was rowing and baiting Aunt Eloise's hook.

Then my grandmother got another bite, and hauled in the longest, biggest eel that I had ever seen. It must have

been almost 3 feet long and as big around as my arm. Aunt Eloise was horrified. "What in the world is that?", she gasped.

"An eel," answered my grandmother.

"What's an eel?"

"Well, it's something between a fish and snake. I guess you could call it a water snake."

Aunt Eloise turned a little pale.

My grandmother had a time getting him off the hook, he was thrashing around so. Finally she caught him behind the head with one hand and, holding him between her knees, managed to get the hook out. She stood up, still holding the eel behind the head, and opened the fish box to drop him in. Well, just as she turned him loose, he thrashed his tail. He missed the fish box and landed in the bottom of the boat. He took off for the front of the boat, thrashing this way and that, slithering and sliding in the inch or two of water that was there.

Aunt Eloise gave one shriek and went over the end of the boat backwards. The water was only about 3 feet deep, but the bottom was muddy. When she came up, she had lost her hat, her hair was all over her face, and she was muddy from the top of her head to her waist, which was all we could see. She headed for the bank, sinking into the mud almost up to her knees with each step.

My grandmother and I watched her, dumbfounded, till she reached the bank and took off for the house. I didn't want to laugh, at least not till she got out of hearing. But I couldn't help it. I started laughing. I laughed till my sides hurt. My grandmother tried not to laugh, but she couldn't make it either. She started laughing and we both laughed till tears came down our cheeks.

I told her, "You did that on purpose, didn't you?"

She said, "You saw how he was

thrashing around. Anybody would have had trouble putting him in the fish box."

She didn't say that she did, but she didn't say that she didn't either. I never found out.

Anyway, when we got back to the house, carrying our two catfish and Aunt Eloise's wet hat (the eel had gone right up over the side of the boat and into the water), Aunt Eloise was busy

packing. She wouldn't come down for supper. And right after supper she asked my Grandmother Gordon if I could take her over to Aunt Janie's.

My grandmother told her that she was sorry about her accident and tried to talk her out of going. But I don't think that her heart was really in it.

As for me, I couldn't get that wagon hitched up fast enough.

CHARLOTTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

There are over 400 Christian churches in Charlotte, plus Jewish and other faiths. We play a lot - with 87 parks, 35 theatres and 20 golf courses.

Thirteen airlines serve us. A new multi-million dollar air terminal is under construction. More than 125 trucking firms operate from the city with over 5,000 Charlotte-based tractor trailers. Over 300 trains pass through each week.

Charlotte is sports-minded. A championship baseball team, professional soccer, football and the UNCC Forty-niners offer year-round sports activities. The World 600 and the World 500 Grand National Auto races are run at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Two of the South's most exciting consumer shows are held annually in Charlotte: the Southern Living Show, which is included in your registration, features gardens, crafts, designer rooms and home-improvement ideas; the November Southern Christmas

Show exhibits gift ideas, food and home decorating. Carowinds, a 77-acre theme park, is located south of the city.

Charlotte is a focal point for cultural activities in the Carolinas. Spirit Square is a centrally-located facility for creative activities and performances. The Mint Museum of Art has a permanent collection of over 3,000 pieces. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, The Charlotte Opera Association, and The Oratorio Singers all attract international guest artists each year.

There are more than 55 shopping complexes in the city. Two of the larger shopping malls have over 85 stores, each. One, Eastland Mall, will be the site of our Camellia show, with continuous shuttle bus service from the convention center to the mall.

The Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte invites you to just come and have a good time, and share in our hospitality. We will be waiting to give you a "tarheel" welcome when you deplane at the airport or when you drive through the city gates.

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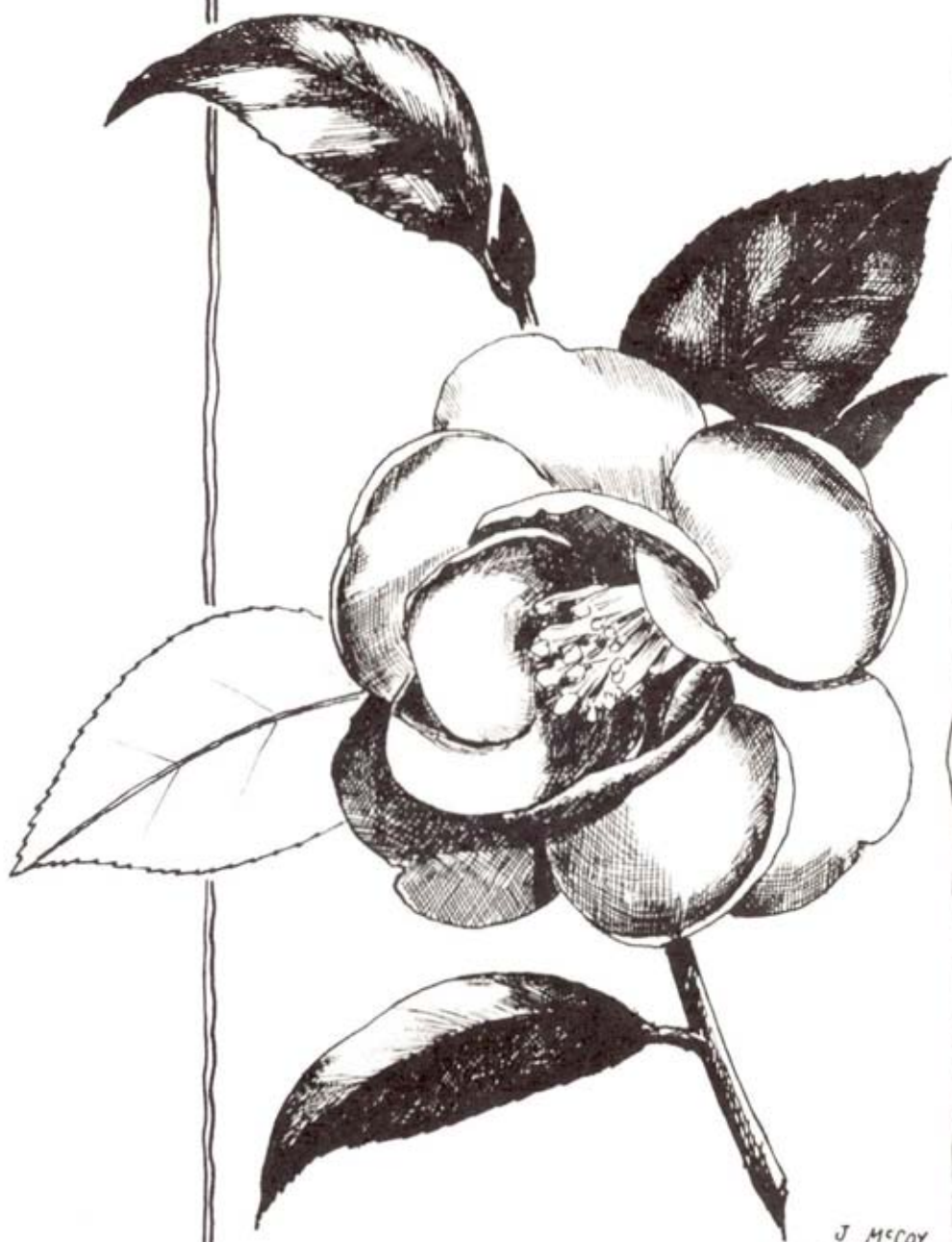
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CORRECTION

The editor is not about to confess to every error he makes, but he feels that he must call your attention to one made in the spring issue. Someone might start looking for a camellia which does not exist. The cover flower was 'Berenice Beauty' and not Berenice Beautiful. While we're at it, we might as well admit that the flower was shown up-side-down.