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THE GULF COAST

# *Camellian*

Winter 2013

Volume 39 No. 1



*A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

# *The Gulf Coast Camellian*

Volume 39 No. 1

Winter 2013

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## *President's Message*

*Lynn Vicknair*

**A**s the new President of GCCS I would like to start by sharing with you a little bit about myself. I have been a member of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society since 1984 and the Treasurer for 15 years. I have been an ACS judge for 7 years and a member of GCCS for 3 years. I have lived in Baton Rouge for 32 years and have about 100 camellia plants. I love every one of them and I wish I had room for 1000 more!

First, I want to thank the past and present officers for doing such a wonderful job. Dick Hooton accomplished so much during his tenure. He got the bylaws revised and updated for the club's changing membership. Geri Jinks did an awesome job with the *Camellian*. It is with great sadness we lose her as the editor but she has more important business to take of and we all will be thinking and praying for her in the future. Peter Soules updated the membership roster and lets everyone know when we

have not paid our dues. Lynnette Soules takes meticulous notes and informs the members of what takes place at all meetings. Homer Richardson keeps the website full of beautiful pictures and informs us of important upcoming dates and events. We welcome the new editor, Kenn Campbell, who did a fantastic job with his first *Camellian*. We also welcome our new Vice-President, Jim Dwyer, from Foley, Alabama.

Second, I want to begin my term by emphasizing that this is your Society. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me at 225.802.8785. My email is [lynnv@cox.net](mailto:lynnv@cox.net).

Last (but certainly not least), thanks to everyone who contributed to the outstanding conference in Natchez!! Geri, Homer, Lynne, and the entire Brookhaven club worked so hard. There were 66 in attendance. If you were not there you missed some very informative talks, good tours,

good food, and some special entertainment provided by Pensacola's talented Ellen Vinson. For the raffle we were lucky to have a beautiful painting of "Melissa Ann" by artist Kay Kaberlein of Brookhaven.

Now make your plans for next year's meeting in Spanish Fort. Vickie and Al Bough are already getting ready for you. Please contact them and offer your assistance.

Kenn Campbell says if you want to see material other than Baton Rouge happenings in the Camellian, please send him articles.

Peter says please send in your dues and contact information.

Remember ACS is selling 2013 Camellia Calendars and is having a membership contest.

See you at the shows!!!



## *From our Cover . . . . .*

Early blooms from  
Richard Hooton's  
garden in  
Pensacola, FL.

Clockwise from  
top - Mathotiana  
Supreme Var.  
(Flowerwood,  
Mobile Ala. 1951),  
Bette Ann  
(Hooton,  
Pensacola Fl.  
1998), Kiku-Toji  
(Japan 1895),  
Little Slam  
(Nuccio, 1969).



Photo by Richard Hooton

# The Camellia in the Landscape



Vickie Baugh

Camellia Club of Mobile

**E**xpect to see more of Alice Creighton at upcoming camellia shows. The bloom was registered in 2003 by Walter Creighton. The bloom is a medium formal double - rose pink with a white border at the end of the petal. Should this feature be subtitled ***"will the real Alice Creighton come forward?"***



*Alice Creighton on the head table at a Covington show, 2011*



*Alice and Walter Creighton, with an Alice Creighton front center.*

*Photos by Vickie Baugh*



# THE LONELY HIGO

By Jim Campbell, Covington, LA



There is a class of japonicas known as HIGO. These are particularly lovely flowers that rarely ever get to the Camellia Show. The reason mainly is that they are irregular flowers which most camellia judges deem as not being a perfect flower form. They are usually single flowers with a large group of spreading stamens. The Japanese call them “smiley faces” for when looking at them they appear to be smiling. These are great garden plants as they are strong and fairly vigorous in growth. Most of the Higos have very large flowers and bloom abundantly, making for a beautiful garden accent.

Higos are coveted in Japan and they even have a Society dedicated to preserving the higo. Around 120 cultivars are listed that the Higo Society deem worthy of inclusion.

Very few people in this country grow higo camellias. Luckily for us in the Gulf Coast area, we had two collectors who brought back higos from Japan. Vi Stone of Baton Rouge and



*Tahara Zaki*



*Ozeki*

Photos by Jim Campbell



*Mikuni-No-Homare*



*Jitsu-getsu-sei*



*Fuji*

Thomas Perkins of Brookhaven had the largest collections of these plants. Also luckily for us, the Stone Collection was given to the Burden Center in Baton Rouge and the higos are growing in their own higo garden. So if you ever have a chance to see the higos in bloom at Burden, they will make you smile.

I have tried to collect all of the higo varieties from both the collections and have around 40 varieties. Anyone who would like to grow them can contact me and I will be glad to share cuttings or scions.



*Kumagai*



*Benitaiheiraku*



# GREENHOUSE GROWING - PART 3

## Care of the Camellias.



By Mark Crawford

Valdosta, GA

Photos by Mark Crawford

Now that you are seriously considering growing protected camellias you need to consider selecting and growing the plants for the best possible blooms. Selecting the camellias varieties is very important because your space is limited and the real estate inside that greenhouse is precious. One thing to consider is bloom season. Mid-season camellias are usually the most susceptible to freeze damage usually blooming during the peak show season from January through February. Camellias that bloom early either naturally or by using

gib can be grown outside with little danger of freezing and therefore are not your best candidates for the greenhouse. It's those midseason varieties like the Tomorrows and other large flowered varieties that you should consider. Camellias



with small and medium flowers should also be included so you have a good selection for shows or for your personal enjoyment. Then there are those beautiful reticulatas that bloom late or their buds are damaged by cold weather. Reticulatas are generally what separate greenhouse growers from outdoors in the southeast and gulf coast areas. Growers on the west coast can grow retics outside because the climate is usually not subject to extremes in heat and cold.

Growing retics can be challenging because they are more susceptible to dieback and most varieties grow best when grafted. Retics are usually open growers that will exceed the height of the greenhouse in a short time. This rapid growth requires frequent pruning that creates wounds where the dieback fungus can infect your plants. Pruning wounds should be treated with a wound paint to prevent dieback, especially in the greenhouse environment.



*Lady Pamela retic. hybrid (Dr. R. Withers, Aus. 1996)*

For the best flowers, you will need to fertilize the plants. When I did my survey of experienced greenhouse growers, fertilizer application was the most diverse of all cultural practices. There are all types of fertilizer from typical garden types like 10-10-10 to polymer-

coated controlled release types that feed all season long from a single application. Then there are supplemental fertilizer products like Milorganite, blood meal, alfalfa, urea and micronutrients. These products improve growth, leaf color, flower color and size. Urea and micronutrients can be applied as a foliar spray in addition to granular soil applied fertilizers. This is an efficient way to boost



*Lauren Tudor Pink (Hulyn Smith, Valdosta, GA. 2004)*

nitrogen and micronutrients in the plants during rapid growth and flower bud development and to correct any visible nutrient deficiencies expressed in the foliage. There are so many different fertilizer formulations that I will not make any specific recommendations. If your plants are planted directly in the ground you should get a soil test that will help guide you to the correct fertilizer for your situation. If you grow in pots, then a controlled release product like Osmocote

or Harrel's Polyon is the best choice. Chicken liter products and cottonseed meal are also very good for camellias.



*Polymer coated slow release fertilizers.*

Now with all that fertilizer and lush green plants come the insect pests. They will be attracted to your healthy plants and you need to be ready to provide control. Most growers surveyed used a combination of oil and malathion to control scale, aphids, mealy bugs and mites. In some cases just using a horticultural oil (NOT DORMANT OIL) will work fine at a rate of 1 - 2%v/v. If you have a severe case of mites, use oil plus AVID or any generic product containing the active ingredient abamectin. Another insect problem is ambrosia beetles that chew multiple holes in leaves of new growth usually on the summer or second flush of growth. They are best controlled using a systemic insecticide or timely applications of neem oil. Timely applications is

sometime between the first and second growth flush. If you get severe ambrosia beetle damage on your camellias, it is best to



*Severe ambrosia beetle damage.*

remove the growth flush and apply an insecticide. This will stimulate another flush of healthy growth.

Greenhouse plants are usually planted much closer together compared to garden plants because you want to get the most out of your greenhouse. This requires more careful attention to size management and careful pruning. Keeping the plants tall and narrow is generally the best pruning technique for the greenhouse so each plant receives adequate light. Plants are generally pruned so that they do not grow into each other and have no cross limbs. Maintaining narrow, open plants will provide the best flowers for exhibition.

*Disease control and propagation will be the topic of part 4.*



## *Pensacola Camellia Club*

### Shade House Workday



*Pensacola Club members assemble to clean up the shade house.*

*One young camellia gets a treatment.*



*Photos by Kean Engie*





## *The Baton Rouge Camellia Society's Propagation Program*

*Gerald Phares, President B.R.C.S.*

As the Baton Rouge Camellia Society grew, new members were attending the annual spring show. They were amazed and delighted to see so many new and different japonicas being exhibited. Mike and Della Pigott began bringing grafted plants to sell. This was great, but there were still many beautiful varieties unavailable for members to buy. We decided to buy understock and graft our own plants to supply both what we wanted and what there seemed to be a need for based on requests received at the shows.

We invited experienced grafters to come and teach our members how to graft. Our first mentors were Mike Pigott, Gordon Rabalais, Jim Campbell, Art Landry, Kenn Campbell, Pat Hegwood, and Charlie Johnson. Soon many of our own club members were grafting also. Dr. Pat Hegwood, Director of Burden Center, made that facility available to us. We were soon grafting japonicas, selling them, and sharing the



*Mike Pigott and Art Landry busy grafting.*



*Dyer Lafleur, Gerald Phares, and Lynn Vicknair assist grafter Pat Hegwood.*



*Bill Stracener looks on as Joe Holmes grafts.*





*New grafts arranged in shade house.*



*As grafts start to grow, cups are removed.*



*"Ladies Weeding Team" grooms plants in hoop house.*



*Society members prepare flats of cuttings for mist bed.*

profits with the Burden Center. We realized that with the Burden Center facility available to us, we could grow our own understock for grafting, thus having a steady flow of less expensive plants each year. We also found that many of the more popular varieties in the camellia shows were not available in the numbers needed for our members and friends.

Therefore, the goal of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society became that of rooting and growing understock and popular high-demand japonicas.

A new revelation has shown that pre-1900 japonicas grow better on their own roots rather than being grafted. At this point, the BRCS has about 600 japonicas ready to sell, most being grafted varieties; a few are growing on their own roots. About 200 japonicas on their own roots in one-gallon pots are ready to be upped to one-and-a-half or two gallon pots. They will be added to our inventory for sale, first to our Baton Rouge members and second to other camellia friends.

About 200 grafts made in 2012 are ready to add to the inventory. A special effort is being made to expand our Stone varieties.

Additionally, we have 2000 four-inch pots which

were rooted in the misting bed in June 2011 of which 1000 are popular varieties of japonicas and 1000 popular varieties of sasanquas. These will be upped to one-gallon pots in the fall of 2012.

On August 1, 2012, we completed filling seventeen trays with cuttings of japonicas and sasanquas. We encourage our members to fertilize their plants in order to have cuttings with four to six inches of new growth. Our cuttings are placed about one to one-and-a-half inches apart into 20" x 20" trays filled with about four inches of Perlite, but there are other good media available. We estimate that we have approximately 5000 cuttings in the seventeen trays (2000 sasanquas and 3000 japonicas). We have selected top varieties requested by our members and friends.

Florence Crowder maintains a computer list of varieties grown by our members which we try to keep up-to-date. It is a good idea to have a master list of varieties that folks have so that we don't lose some of our good varieties.

This year, Miles Beach sent us cuttings of Heirloom varieties. Jim Campbell selected cuttings of good varieties from his garden as well. We contacted Stephanie

and John Grimm to get some of the Stone varieties which we could not locate in the Baton Rouge area.

We have a mission to assist in maintaining the Stone garden along with all of the other camellias at the Burden Center. We would like to see people wanting to come to Baton Rouge specifically to visit the Burden Gardens.

The profits from our sales of plants are shared 50/50 with Burden Center – either with dollars or with contributions of pine bark, etc.



*The group takes a break after potting up cuttings into 4" pots.*



*A crew of members repairs the shade house after damage by Hurricane Isaac.*

# From a Gardener's Journal

**By Lynn Richardson**

Brookhaven, Mississippi



The conference is over! I do hope everyone who was there has as much fun as we did. I also hope the people who had not visited Natchez before liked it enough to come back in the future. It has always been a place close to my heart, especially the river. The river informs who we are as a people for much of the state.

It is and always has been part of our lives. Even when we lived in other states, there was always a river close by, not the Mississippi but an important river, nevertheless.

Now we can look forward to the next part of the season, the various shows coming up. This year our camellias are blooming earlier than ever, probably in part to a spring with rain at the proper time for bud development. My darling Shiro Bokuhan always blooms the first week of October, but Alba Fimbriata? She is always a

Thanksgiving girl, blooming around then. Also, Governor Mouton, Marie Bracey, Rose Dawn, Shishi Gashira, Kanjiro, Mine no Yuke, C.M. Hovey, Jury's Double Yellow, Black Gold Variegated, Pink Perfection, Pink Snow and even Kujaku-a very late bloomer for me. Not to mention our two Higos. It is

a joy to go out in the yard every day and see who has come out in bloom that day! Maybe this year we will have blooms for Gulfport and the earlier shows. Many of our camellias are mid to late season bloomers

so it is nice to anticipate showing blooms earlier.

So now it is getting to be show time, show time, show time! Time to get out boxes, polyfill, water tubes, grooming tools and nomenclature books, not to mention entry cards, stamps or address labels. We have a small case (inspired by Mike and Geri Jinks)



*Shiro-Karako (Shiro Bokuhan) c. japonica, Japan 1935.*

with all of the books, cards, etc. in it.

Those of us who are show chairman need to make sure our location is booked, start working on schedules, check supplies and get invitations ready to send, and make sure of our committee chairman, supplies like trays, cups, pitchers and other stuff. Then we can work on scheduling our nervous breakdown afterward. Make sure of vendors, too. Not to mention judges! So much to think about and do and make the lists to make sure we get it all done. Actually, in spite of the work involved we really

enjoy it. It is a big event in Brookhaven and we always try to do credit to our late friend and mentor, Thomas Perkins.

Now we have recovered from the Conference and are looking forward to Mobile hosting it next year. Hope to see all of you there.

Just found out that Pensacola will host the A.C.S. Convention next year and are looking forward to that! That will be a great opportunity for those who live in the Gulf South. Several years back, Slidell did a terrific job hosting the conference.



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## **GCCS Past-president Gregory Earl Davis (1930-2012)**



Gregory Earl (Greg) Davis, born in Austin, TX, on July 23, 1930, died October 21, 2012, in Houston, TX, after a brief battle with cancer. He was the only son of Chesley Earl and Evelyn Tigner Davis.

Raised in Huntsville, Greg excelled in various athletics, was captain/quarterback for the Huntsville Hornets; an honor student, he served as Sr. Class President and Valedictorian. He became an Eagle Scout.

Greg received his BS in Chemical Engineering from Rice Institute in 1952. After college, Greg entered into the petrochemical industry, beginning with Celanese, TX Butadiene, and lastly enjoyed 31 years of service with Exxon Mobile, retiring in 1992. Moving the family to Houston in 1968, Greg was introduced to camellias and became an avid camellia hobbyist. Over the years, he served in various capacities for the Houston, Gulf Coast and American Camellia societies as well as 8 years as President of the International Camellia Society.

Greg had a lifelong interest in photography, contributing photos to the Rice Owlmanac, Exxon, and various camellia journals. He was never without a camera!



# ACS Camellia Flower Blight Research Project



Dr. Bill Bennett of Pensacola is conducting a research project on petal blight in Camellias. He will attempt to produce infectious spores in the lab that will enable him to study and understand what conditions control spore blight release without the limitations of seasonal conditions that trigger natural outbreaks.

**HE NEEDS THE HELP OF CAMELLIA GROWERS** in order to track the blight and develop a better understanding of the timing of infections in the different regions of the U. S.

Please complete the form below and let Dr. Bennett know when petal blight first appears in your area.

---

## ACS CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT RESEARCH PROJECT

Date flower blight infection first observed  
on Camellia flower \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code where infected plant grows \_\_\_\_\_

Your mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form to:

ACS Camellia Flower Blight Project  
c/o Bill Bennett  
3846 Menendez Drive  
Pensacola, FL 32503



# *2012-2013 Show Dates*

**1 December 2012 - Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA**

Saint Margaret Mary Gym, Robert Road, Slidell, LA.

**1 December 2012 - Valdosta Camellia Society, Valdosta, GA.**

First Methodist Church, 220 Patterson St., Valdosta, GA

**8 December 2012 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL**

First Baptist Church, 500 North Palafox, Pensacola, FL.

**15 December 2012 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA**

St. Scholastica's Academy Gym., 122 North Massachusetts St, Covington, LA.

**5 January 2013 - Gainesville Camellia Society, Gainesville, FL.**

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 Southwest 58th Drive, Gainesville, FL.

**12 January 2013 - Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA—To Be Announced**

**19 & 20 January 2013 – Camellia Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL**

Colonial Mall, Bel Air, Mobile, AL.

**26 January - Coughatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX.**

First Christian Church Fellowship Building, 3500 North Loop 336 West.

**26-27 January 2013, Ocala Camellia Society, Ocala, FL.**

Pioneer Garden Club, 4331 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL.

**2 & 3 February 2013—Brookhaven Camellia Society, Brookhaven, MS**

Brookhaven Recreation Department, Highway 51 N.

**2 & 3 February 2013—Quitman Garden Club, Quitman, GA.**

Microcraft Building 15656 Hwy 84 E, Quitman, GA.

**9 & 10 February 2013 – Baton Rouge Camellia Society, Baton Rouge, LA**

Rural Life Museum, Essen Lane at I-10, Baton Rouge, LA.

**9 & 10 February, 2013 – Birmingham Camellia Society, Birmingham, AL**

**CANCELLED For this year.**

**9 & 10 February 2013 – Tampa Bay Area Camellia Society**

Tampa Bay Women's Club, 2901 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL.

**16 February 2013 - Coughatta Camellia Society, Huntsville, TX.**

at Gibbs Ranch Conference Center, Sam Houston State University, 113 Fraser Road.

**16 & 17 February 2013 - North Georgia Camellia Society, Atlanta, GA.**

Atlanta Botanical Garden, 1345 Piedmont Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA.

**23 & 24 February 2013 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Fort Valley, GA**

Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley, GA.

**2 March 2013- Southeast Alabama Camellia Club, Dothan, AL**

First Methodist Church. Check for updates on our website

If you have a show date or judging school date that you would like listed in *The Camellian*, please send them to the editor at the address on the inside back cover.

# Camellia Quiz

I got complaints that the last quiz was a bit too hard, so here is another attempt. These are all “Historical Varieties” with their year of introduction. However, you get no name clues this time. Answers on page 25.



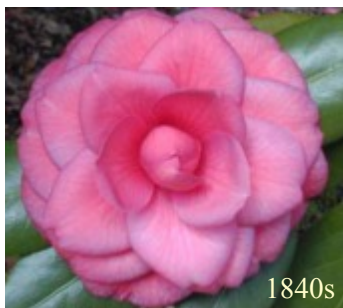
#1 \_\_\_\_\_



#2 \_\_\_\_\_



#3 \_\_\_\_\_



#4 \_\_\_\_\_



#5 \_\_\_\_\_



#6 \_\_\_\_\_

# GULF COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

## Natchez Grand Hotel

### Minutes of the meeting of Oct. 16, 2012

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society was held on Oct. 15 and 16 at the Natchez Grand Hotel in Natchez, Ms., hosted by the Brookhaven Camellia Club. The meeting was opened at 8:35 am by President Dick Hooten. There were 65 members present. A motion was made and approved to adopt the minutes from last year as they were published in *The Camellian*. Peter Soules gave the Treasurer's report. Balance in general checking account as of August 31, 2012, was \$11,317.21. Net profit from the 2011 Annual Meeting was \$675.00. A moment of silence was had for deceased club members. There was no Old Business. In the area of New Business, Hooten announced that the new editor of *The Camellian* was Kenn Campbell of the Baton Rouge club. New officers were announced: President, Lynn Vicknair; Vice President, Jim Dwyer; Treasurer, Peter Soules; Secretary, Lynnette Soules. The 2013 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Mobile Club held on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

Celeste Richard of the ACS introduced new Operations Manager of Massee Lane Gardens, Matthew Israel. He made an extensive, informative



*GCCS President  
Dick Hooten  
chaired the  
Annual Meeting*



*Matthew Israel, new Operations Manager of the ACS  
Masse Lane Gardens.*



*Marie Mizell, Bob Stroud, Kenn Campbell, and Erin  
Stroud*



*Winners of the raffled painting Joyce and Andy Houdek, Lynn Vicknair and the artist, Kay Kaberlein.*



*Lisa Miller gets a hug from Jim Campbell*



*Bob Harden and Tommy Weeks*



*Hunter Charbonnet, Gulf Region Director, gave a GCCS Regional update.*

and interesting presentation on “The State of Massee Lane Gardens.” His power point presentation included projects through the summer of 2012: new camellia signage on all the plants, renewed accreditation at the International Camellia Society as an “International Garden of Excellence,” cleaning of several areas: the Butler and Dodd Greenhouses, the Smith Greenhouse Landing, the Strother Formal Garden and the Environmental Garden. The Camellia House was renovated and the Japanese Garden was revitalized. A new dump truck was acquired. New native species were added to the Dr. Dan & Muriel Nathan Education Pavilion and the West Field. A master plan has been drawn for the Silver Conservatory. Future ACS research will be done on 25 varieties for growth in the sun, and camellia oil as a new agricultural crop in the US. It would be a main source of oil for cooking, cosmetics and lubricating.

Celeste Richard spoke on current ACS promotions, such as the annual membership contest for clubs and individuals, a reduced rate of membership dues for new members and the first annual camellia wall calendar for sale.

Hunter Charbonnet, Gulf Region Director, gave a GCCS Regional update. Lineage is important in that we preserve the legacy of camellias. Commitment is another area he urged of members. If we go out to get monies from big donors, they’ll



ask what kind of participation do we have from members. He said to remember “MAC”, Membership and Commitment.

Mike Jinks reported that Jason McDonald of the Brookhaven area is putting in 10 acres of tea plants. He plans on 60,000 such plants.

Dr. Alan Henn, Extension Services Licensed Plant Pathologist from Mississippi State University spoke on “Plant Pathology and its application to growing camellias.” He stressed what can go wrong and what can be done about it. Plant diseases are affected by 3 things: the plant itself, environment and the cause, such as a living cause, fungus, or non-living, such as soil condition, virus. When they overlap, diseases occur. Petal blight is caused by small air borne spores, emanating from small mushrooms, that land on the surface of the petal. Moisture enhances their growth and they spores send out roots looking for place to enter and burrow, and penetrate the plant into cell wall. Thus the petals turn brown and start to shrivel. To manage camellia growth and flowering, one must break the life cycle of spore growth by good sanitation, such as raking, new mulch, flower removal. Temperature and humidity affect spore growth. Actually, petal blight is really a defense mechanism, allowing it to die off and save the rest of the plant and stop the spreading. A recent problem Dr. Henn has seen on the Gulf Coast is edema on camellias, split raised areas, caused by water in the soil which pushes its way up through the plant and then high



*Michael Jinks and Roger Vinson*



*Geri Jinks and Bette Hooton*



*Judy Kerr and Carol Comber*





*Linda and Bob Ehrhart*



*Leo Brown, Jim Dwyer, Jimmy Walker and Al Baugh*



*Marie Mizell, Joan Blanchard and Eileen Dwyer*



*Jim Campbell and Claudette Shelfer*



*Homer Richardson and Dick Hooton*



*Roger Vinson and Ken Clark*

## ***The Meeting and the Banquet***



*Laura Holmes and Will Mangham*



*The Banquet*



*Joan Blanchard, Carolyn Dickson and Jaqueline Moran*



Jimmy Walker and Vicki Baugh



Kathleen Jenkins of the National Park Service spoke on "Historic Natchez and Camellias".



Joe Holmes and Matthew Israel

humidity at night causes the cells to rupture. He ended by saying that if tips of leaves are dying, could be root rot.

Homer Richardson, of the Brookhaven Camellia Club, and Chairman of the Natchez Meeting spoke on Camellias in the Landscape. He said that camellias can have different purposes. They can serve as a hedge, foundation plant, point of interest, hiding an ugly area. Excellent use is to mix contrast and texture, color and size.

Kathleen Jenkins of the National Park Service spoke on "Historic Natchez and Camellias". The Natchez Pilgrimage was started in 1932. Parts of "Gone with the Wind" movie were shot in Natchez and a camellia was named after Vivian Leigh. Melrose, a historic town home, is owned by the National Park Service. The Brookhaven Camellia Society along with the Melrose Garden Friends did much to landscape and enhance the grounds.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynnette Soules  
Secretary

#### ***Additional Notes:***

Afternoon tours went to Melrose House and Longwood House, two homes built in the 1800s. Banquet dinner entertainer was Pensacola Camellia Club member Ellen Vinson, singing songs from "Showboat" and other musicals.



# *"The Pink Perfection of Pensacola"*

By Bette Hooton

It's that wonderful time of the year again—just warm enough and just cool enough for the camellias to pop. Except a very strange thing happened in my garage. And I remember Mary Ellen Edwards' warning: "Wait 'till it rains, honey!"

I really didn't give it a second thought. On Wednesday after the Natchez Party (and a party it was!), I noticed that my Highlander was just about as full as when we left P'cola for Natchez the Sunday before.

"Where did all those bags come from in the back of the car?" I queried.

"Tommy Weeks," says he.

"Oh. You ran out of Mark Crawford's fertilizer in the garage?" asks I.

Himself speaks: "No-o-o. This is to go to Mark." And he turned up the radio.

Son of a gun! I should have remembered—Mark's fertilizer. I thought it was all gone because I didn't smell it any more. So when I went out to the garage on Friday, after Thursday's rain, it hit me like a blast of skunk! Dear heavenly day! So now I know that the base is chicken manure, and Hulyn Smith's pet name for it was 'hen-doo'. And this is the last word on fertilizer I will ever write.



*Ellen Vinson, "The Pink Perfection of Pensacola."*

Well, I can't speak for anyone except Dick and me, but we had a wonderful time in Natchez probably because all our rowdy friends had come to town. The Jinks and the Richardsons know how to have a good time. As in most old cities, shops and entertainment are walkable; and Patti Perkins and I took advantage of it all. Kudos to Homer and I hope that first peaceful day he had on Thursday was a good one. The hotel and staff were friendly and efficient, the food delicious, especially that shrimp pasta thing on Tuesday night. Another nice surprise for all was the jazz fest by Ellen Vinson, our own 'alba plena of the Gulf Coast'. Her voice is as lovely as she is.

*Continued page 24*

## Editor's Note

By Kenn Campbell



Thanks to all of you who sent in material for the last issue (my first). It is much appreciated. I am told it was a good issue, so you must have done something right. Keep up the good work.

In order to synchronize publication with the seasons, I have established the following deadlines:

Issue	Months	To Editor by	To Printer	Mailed
No.1 Winter	Dec-Jan-Feb	15 Nov	24 Nov	29 Nov
No.2 Spring	Mar-Apr-May	15 Feb	21 Feb	26 Feb
No.3 Summer	Jun-Jul-Aug	15 May	24 May	29 May
No.4 Autumn	Sep-Oct-Nov	15 Aug	24 Aug	29 Aug

Keep these dates in mind and try not to wait until the last minute to write your article.

I had to get a new computer. The old “Pagemaker” desktop publishing software that I had been using for fifteen years was discontinued some time ago, so I had to get new software that was compatible with Windows 7. Naturally, all of the commands and icons are different and in different places. As a result, I am having to unlearn all that I have been doing all these years and learn anew! It has been a painfully slow process. I suppose the next issue will be less painful.



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### *“The Pink Perfection of Pensacola” - continued from page 23*

From there, the Hospitality Room was our destination to listen to the Debate—no, not that one—Kenn Campbell and Dick about single malt scotch—but we did watch the Other One, too.

As you can figure out, my wrist is healed and I’m back at the ironing board. Gulfport’s show is coming soon as is Ft Walton’s—I’m ready. November and then December. The Pensacola Club is working hard to make its show on Dec. 8 fantastic, and a location change always presents challenges. But Skip and the group are up to it and want you all to come to the Panhandle. I promise you more of Ellen Vinson, ‘the pink perfection of Pensacola’.





# *Blood of China - An Old Mobile Variety*

By Kenn Campbell



*'Blood of China' (c. japonica 1938)  
Robert Rubel, "Longview" Mobile, AL.*



*Cast zinc tag found on a plant of 'Blood of China' at the plantation of Mr. MacVea in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The tag reads: "Longview" Crichton, ALA. Robt. D. Rubel, Jr. Prop., Camellia Specialist. Camellia, Blood of China, propagated 1931.*

The International Camellia Register describes Blood of China as follows:

"They are a deep, but brilliant, salmon red with reticulated darker veins, occasionally a few petals in the center are slightly splashed white. When fully open, a short bunch of golden stamens adds to the colour harmony. Mid-season to late flowering."

The plant originated from an unknown variety in the garden of Henry Stoutz in Mobile, Alabama, which he purchased in

1905 from the "Industrial Gardener's Boy's Home." In 1931, Rubel propagated from it at his Longview Nursery, Alabama. Bellingrath Gardens, Mobile, Alabama, bought the original plant and called it Victor Emmanuel due to its likeness to the Italian variety 'Victorio Emmanuel II.' "As 'Victor Emmanuel' is a valid synonym for the old Italian variety 'Victorio Emmanuel II' published in 1861-1862, it must be rejected as a synonym for 'Blood of China.'"

## *Camellia Quiz Answers*

1. Daikgura (Wards) 1891,
2. Lady Vansittart 1887,
3. Herme 1875,
4. Mathotiana 1840s,
5. Alba Plena 1792,
6. Pink Perfection 1875

Got six right - You're the 'historical' expert at the show. Got 4-5 right - You know your old timers. Got 1-3 right - Not bad for an amateur.



## *In the Winter Garden .....By Art Landry*

**W**inter is the time to enjoy the fruit of your labors of the spring, summer, and fall. Camellias need ample moisture to bloom; soak with 1" of water every week we don't get enough rain. Try to pick up spent blooms to control petal blight. Transplanting of plants can take place in December and continue through February. If you prepared your planting sites in October the planting place should be in good shape by now if you've turned the soil over a few times. If you didn't do this earlier, do it now and wait a month or two. Container-grown plants can be planted into the ground at anytime, if you make sure the roots are well mated to the new soil and not allowed to dry out.

### *December*

Don't overlook the pleasure that you can share by giving camellia plants or books as Christmas presents. A gift membership in your local camellia society, the Gulf Coast Camellia Society or the American Camellia Society will also be appreciated by your camellia friends.

### *January*

January is a good time to do minor pruning while you are cutting flowers from the bush. If the branch is a weak one or will have no growth bud on it, then cut it off back at the main branch or the trunk. Don't leave a branch with leaves on it without growth buds; it is likely to die back anyway. You are better off to prune it away at the time you cut the flower.

If you have a plant with a scale problem, you can spray with oil emulsion such as Dormant Oil or Ultrafine Oil spray. Another good product is Neem Oil, also sold as a rose spray. Look for the active ingredient to be Neem Oil. (For example, Neem Oil is now 'the active ingredient in "Triple Action" spray by Fertilome which also contains a miticide and a fungicide.) As with other oil sprays, use in mild weather periods to avoid damage to the leaves. Always use as directed by manufacturer.

### *February*

February is usually the month of most profuse blooming of camellias in this area. The early bloomers are finishing, the midseason varieties are in full swing, and the late season bloomers are starting. We seldom have hard freezes in February to interrupt the blooming. Although the blossoms don't seem to last as well at the season, the number of blooms opening every day offsets that problem. Outdoor plants seldom need any watering since we generally get ample rain during this period. Be sure to check containers, though, if rainfall is sparse.



# *Camellia Websites*

**American Camellia Society**

[www.americancamellias.org](http://www.americancamellias.org)

**Atlantic Coast Camellia Society**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org)

**Baton Rouge Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/brcamellias](http://www.facebook.com/brcamellias)

**Birmingham Camellia Society**

[www.birminghamcamellias.com](http://www.birminghamcamellias.com)

**Brookhaven Camellia Society**

[www.homerrichardson.com/camellia](http://www.homerrichardson.com/camellia)

**Camellia Society of North Florida**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia\\_Society\\_North\\_Fla.html](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html)

**Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/FWBCCamelliaSociety](http://www.facebook.com/FWBCCamelliaSociety)

**Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society**

[www.afn.org/-camellia/](http://www.afn.org/-camellia/)

**Gulf Coast Camellia Society**

[www.gulfcoastcamellias.org](http://www.gulfcoastcamellias.org)

**Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/Mississippi\\_Gulf\\_Coast\\_Camellia\\_Society](http://www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society)

**Mobile Camellia Society**

[www.mobilecamellia.org](http://www.mobilecamellia.org)

**Northshore Camellia Society**

[www.northshorecamelliasociety.org](http://www.northshorecamelliasociety.org)

**Pensacola Camellia Club**

[www.pensacolacamellioclub.com](http://www.pensacolacamellioclub.com)

*Does your club have a website? Send it to us and we will be glad to print it.*

# *An Invitation to Join Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society was organized in 1962 for the purpose of extending appreciation and enjoyment of camellias. The Society strives to provide information to its members about all aspects of the care and culture of camellia plants as well as the exhibiting and showing of camellia blooms. The Society also serves as a forum for members to share and exchange information and experiences with other members.

Annual dues for membership in the Gulf Coast Camellia Society are \$10.00 for individuals and \$12.00 for couples. Membership runs from August through July each year. Life Membership is available at 20 times the annual membership - \$200 for individual and \$240 for couples. Included with membership are four issues of *The Gulf Coast Camellian* which contains articles on all aspects of camellia culture as well as serving as an exchange of news and information between and for members. *The Camellian* also contains reports of the Society's operations, minutes of meetings, financial reports, show news, and other subjects of interest to our members.

**To join**, send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, along with your payment to *Gulf Coast Camellia Society*, in care of Peter Soules, 22128 5th St., Abita Springs, LA 70420.

## **Our next annual meeting.**

The dates are: October 14 and 15 (Monday and Tuesday), with arrival of some on Sunday. Spanish Fort's Five Rivers Delta Resource Center is the destination for the Tuesday educational meeting and lunch. Evening dinners are at Daphne's Civic Center. Spanish Fort's Marriott Courtyard is the host hotel. All sites are the same as discussed at Board Meetings. All sites are within a few miles of each other on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. Vicki and Ed Baugh are making all arrangements.



# *The Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

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ellia japonica ヤブツバキ

Original species camellia japonica, Jyougashima Garden Japan