

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Winter 2014

Volume 40 No. 1



"Sweet Tea"

An intergeneric hybrid between Franklinia and Gordonia

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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From Our Cover

Dr. Tom Ranney at NC State University discovered a polyploidy form of the intergeneric hybrid between Franklinia and Gordonia with extra sets of chromosomes. The result is huge (5 inch diameter), showy flowers named "Sweet Tea" that look like big fried eggs. See page 5.





President's Message

Lynn Vicknair

In mid-October Spanish Fort was invaded by Camellians! They came from everywhere...Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, the entire Gulf Coast and even North Alabama. Al and Vickie Baugh and the Mobile Camellia Society rolled out the red carpet for us.

Monday night we had a splendid seafood dinner with creative floral decorations provided by the Spanish Fort Garden Club. After dinner Al, Dick, Randolph, Jimmy, Leo, Treasurer Mike and his wife Ann guided us through a very organized plant auction. 15 club members donated more than 200 plants. I can't wait to see those new varieties at next years' shows. We made over \$3800.

After the business meeting on Tuesday, Hank Burch spoke about the location of our meeting at 5-Rivers Delta Resource Center. Then Buddy Lee gave out plants as he talked about camellias, rhododendrons, and the Encore Azaleas he developed.

We also got updates from Celeste and Matthew about ACS headquarters. Then James Farmer, official spokesperson for ACS, decorated a wreath with fresh greenery and camellias as he shared

camellia and family stories from his Kathleen, Georgia, home. During the breaks we were treated to a delightful camellia slide show put together by Al.

After a delicious lunch served on the porch overlooking the delta area, some attendees opted for the Delta boat tour through the beautiful 5-Rivers area where they saw plenty



of birds and wildlife. The Delta Wildlife Museum is in the same complex and was open to visitors. Dessert was served at Al and Vickie's home and they gave us a tour of their majestic garden,

Tuesday night we were back at the Daphne Civic Center for another mouth-watering dinner. Our banquet speaker was Donnie Barrett, owner of Fairhope Tea plantation. He is also the curator/director of the Fairhope Museum. We had a very educational

and entertaining history lesson on growing tea. He brought samples of his oolong tea for testing.

Florence Crowder, with the help of Mike and Ann Ruth and the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, organized and moved more than 20 donated silent auction items throughout each meeting location. The silent auction was a success netted over \$800! The exquisite signed Helen Bower Boehm porcelain camellia donated by Larry Heard and Robert Moore of "The



A Helen Bower Boehm porcelain "Lady Laura" was the raffle prize won by Susan Moran.

Christmas House" in Mobile was won by Susan Moran of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society.

On Wednesday we were invited to visit with Jim Smelley at his impressive greenhouses outside of Moss Point, MS. He does not mind sharing his growing secrets with anyone- he just challenges you to beat his blooms at the next show!

A great big THANK YOU goes out to all of the donors, volunteers, organizers, and hard workers for

contributing to such a successful and wonderful conference. Because it was so successful, GCCS was able to donate \$2000 to ACS to help with their new parking lot project.

If you did not attend this meeting, we missed you and hope that you will join us next fall when the Northshore Club will be our hosts. We still need a venue for 2015 so talk to your local club members about hosting the conference then.

On a sad note, we lost two dear Camellians recently: Pat Hegwood's wife, Michele, and John Grimm's wife, Stephanie from New Orleans. They will be forever remembered.

Remember to attend and enter as many blooms as you can in the upcoming camellia shows. Fort Walton Beach started the season last weekend with a great show. This is the 50th year for the Fort Walton Show.

Talk to all of the visitors at the shows and get them interested in joining your local club! Tell them what your club has to offer and show them that we are a warm and friendly group.

Let's all support Pensacola in any way we can as they prepare for the ACS annual meeting and convention in December. It is not too late to register. More information is available on the ACS Website:

www.americancamellias.org



Franklinia and Related Species of the Tea Family

By Mark Crawford



Franklinia alatamaha also known as the Franklin tree, the lost camellia or the lost Gordonia, is one of the great American botanical mysteries. A small group of *Franklinia* trees were discovered by John and William Bartram along the banks of the Altamaha River in Georgia in 1765. Seeds were collected from these trees over a number of years, but the species has not been seen in the wild since 1790. Although the *Franklinia* is considered extinct in the wild, it persists in cultivation and makes an attractive landscape tree. This species is

valued for its showy white flowers and bright crimson/maroon fall foliage color. Considering its southern origins, it is surprising that it tolerates winter temperatures as low as -36°F.

However *Franklinia* tends to be short lived in the landscape and is known to be very susceptible to *Phytophthora* root rot. All cultivated plants today descend from one or more of the original collected specimens planted in Philadelphia after 1765.

Schima is a genus of trees and shrubs native to western China, Assam and



Franklinia alatamaha - "Franklin Tree"



Franklinia blooms while showing its fall colors. photo by John and Doreen Anderson

Taiwan. Unlike the *Franklinia*, the *Schima* has glossy evergreen foliage. It is valued for its late summer flowers and as a landscape plant in mild climates. Common to warm temperate and tropical regions of southern and southeastern Asia, *Schimas* are often used for fodder, fuel, poles and timber. They have a broad distribution and are often used in Asia for forestation due to their adaptability and tolerance to a wide range of environments, including dry sites, infertile soils and clay soils. *Franklinia* being much less tolerant to adverse growing conditions has been hybridized with *Schima* and *Gordonia*. The *Schima* used for hybridization is *Schima*



Schima superba

argentea. This species has better cold tolerance having been observed to be undamaged as low as 16° C in Chapel Hill, NC (Dr Cliff Parks, personal observation).

The intergeneric hybridization between *Franklinia* and *Schima* was achieved and constitutes the first intergeneric cross involving these

two plant species. Because the hybrid is from two different plant genera, the proposed generic name is *xSchimlinia floribunda*. The resulting hybrids have dark to medium evergreen foliage that turns



Schimlinia a Franklinia x Schima hybrid

burgundy colored after frost. All have white flowers in late summer (Aug) that range from 2 to 3 inches in diameter. Due to the parental origins in southern Georgia and southeast Asia, it is anticipated that the new *Schimlinia* hybrids will be cold hardy to zones 7b and 8.

Gordonia lasianthus (L.) Ellis is an ever-green tree native to the Coastal Plains through out the southeastern United States, and typically grows along streams and wet areas. *Gordonia lasianthus* is valued for its attractive evergreen foliage and large, white, showy flowers. However, cold hardiness is limited to USDA zone 7b-8a.

Hybrids between *Gordonia* and *Franklinia* resembled *Franklinia* in

some characteristics, including broader leaves with teeth all along the margin, sub- orbicular sepals, longer filaments and styles, and conspicuous pubescence on the juvenile shoots, lower leaf surfaces and on dormant terminal bud scales. The hybrids resemble *Gordonia* with flowers that are prominently stalked and leaves that are acute and widest near the middle. Many characteristics of the hybrids were intermediate between the parents, including leaf duration (semi-evergreen), flower shape (partially cupped to flattened), short peduncles (10–25 mm), sepal length (7–9 mm), and lightly pubescent juvenile shoots, dormant terminal bud scales, and on lower leaf surfaces. Hybrids generally exhibited larger sizes than either parent in leaf length (11–20 cm).

Ackerman and Williams conducted extensive crosses between *Franklinia* and camellias and produced two intergeneric hybrids, but their growth was weak and extremely slow resulting in the discontinuation of this line of hybridizing.

Dr. Tom Ranney at NC State University discovered a polyploidy form of the intergeneric hybrid between *Franklinia* and *Gordonia* with extra sets of chromosomes. The result is huge (5 inch diameter), showy flowers that look like big fried eggs. The foliage is semi-evergreen with large, single, camellia-like flowers from July through September. This plant has been named 'Sweet Tea'. It is such

a fitting name because, it's a member of the tea family, the flowers have a light sweet fragrance, and it comes from the South where sweet tea runs in our veins. Unfortunately, it's not the toughest tree on the planet, so give it a good site with well-drained, even moisture. More resistant to *Phytophthora* than *Franklinia*, but it's still a bit finicky. Best in full sun or a little afternoon shade as long as it's not too dry. Roots readily from stem cuttings, then takes off



"Sweet Tea"
*An intergeneric hybrid between
 Franklinia and Gordonia*

growing. Mature height is estimated to be 20-30 feet. Zone 7-10. Not patented or trademarked. It is available from Camellia Forest Nursery in North Carolina.

Today efforts are being made to restore the *Franklinia* to the wild by planting specimens near the site where they were originally discovered.

For a comprehensive article on the history of *Franklinia* and the people associated with it go to www.terrain.org/articles/18/rowland.htm



From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson

Brookhaven, Mississippi



Conferences, Camellias, Christmas

Last month we went to the G.C.C.S. conference at Spanish Fort, Alabama. A good time was had by all! Three days of fun, fellowship and listening to wonderful speakers. Outstanding tours, including the 5 Rivers boat tour, where we saw alligators on the bank, ospreys on their nests and hosts of other wildlife. The rangers who were our guides were knowledgeable and fun to be with. Later we toured Al and Vicki's garden, which was so well landscaped and planted that two acres looked like ten. They had also gibbed the blooms so every plant had scores of blooms and we did not lack for photo opportunities. The last day we toured Jim Smelley's greenhouses where he had three year old grafted plants that were ten feet tall! The auction and the silent auctions raised lots of money, some of it mine, and our friend Susan Moran won the raffle for the gorgeous Boehm porcelain. We did tease her travelling companion, Lisa Miller, whether she would have room for the "big giant head" in the car going home. She said if she opened the sunroof it could be managed. By the way, Al and Vicki were the people who made the arrangements for this event and

everything went beautifully. If there were any problems we saw no evidence of it.

When we got back to Brookhaven we attended the grand opening of FiLoLi Tea Farm here. In spite of the rain, it all went well. There were numerous state officials there, including our Secretary of Agriculture Cindy Hyde-Smith and others from the town and county. We are all especially excited about the tea farm being in Lincoln County. Col. Jason Alexander McDonald is the owner and we were all graciously welcomed and allowed to take part in a ceremonial planting, with each of us being given a tea plant to place in the ground. Of course, in a few years I am quite sure that "our" plants will do as well as the others to be planted next spring.

Now back to our own plants. This is the time of year when the precious ones start to bloom. It is really exciting to see who will bloom first, who will bloom early and who will bloom late. You do realize that I am convinced that they are people when I am out looking at them and talking to them. Now is the time when you can start to think about holiday arrangements using camellias. To me, Thanksgiving sort of gets short shrift, first there is

Halloween, then Christmas to think of and it is sort of crammed in between. A football holiday, more or less. The decorations are always turkeys, mums, pumpkins and Pilgrims. Why not use camellias at least as a beautiful centerpiece for the Thanksgiving table? Use a pewter or copper or brass container and really any color of camellias. There is always sasanqua foliage that you can use instead of cutting too much from your japonicas. It is such a lovely dark green and so thick. Most people will not notice the difference. Also the blooms look fantastic floating in a big bowl. A series of small or large crystal vases



or containers, hurricane shades with candles and camellias and their foliage surrounding them, all of these are easy to use and look as though you had spent more time than it takes arranging them. Then of course with Christmas and New Year's coming up, you can be more generous with the flowers and the red and white are especially seasonal. Later Valentine's day and even Easter, depending on how early that holiday falls offer more opportunities for decorating. Anyway, have a great holiday season and we will see you at the shows.



In Memorium

Stephanie Louise Cassagne Grimm passed away at her home on Wednesday, October 15, 2013. Born on April 16, 1947 in Covina, CA, she was preceded in death by her parents, Virginia and Stephen Louis Cassagne and her grandparents Peter and Aline Escobedo Antonakos, Aunt Virginia and Uncle Jerry Gratton, and Uncle Jack Pippin.

She is survived by her husband, of 44 years John (Jack) Grimm, her daughter Samantha Grimm Hallenus (Jon) and son, Jonathan Louis Grim and her sister, Phyllis Cassagne Pierpoint (Robert).

She was a graduate of Sacred Heart High School and received her Bachelor's Degree in Education and Masters Degree in Special Education from The University of New Orleans. She was a parishioner of St. Ann Catholic Church for over 40 years and was a devout Catholic. Her passions included scrapbooking, photography, and gardening. Selections from her thousands of Camellias pictures have appeared on calendars and in articles. Stephanie and her husband were members of many camellia societies and she was a Tangipahoa Master Gardner where she worked to preserve The Hody Wilson Camellia Garden, a botanical treasure of the parish and the country.

The "Robert McNeese" Camellia

By Art Landry

When I moved back to Baton Rouge in 1974 from New Orleans, I proceeded to re-establish my camellia garden (as I had done on several previous moves). Each year I grafted a number of varieties from several area growers including many from Vi Stone. One of those I grafted from Vi had a tag 'Stan McNeese'. I grew it under that name for several years.

When it started blooming I tried entering the bloom in area shows. I could not because

there was no "Stan McNeese" camellia listed in the Nomenclature book. Efforts to get the bloom identified by a number of camellia show judges and exhibitors were unsuccessful.

After Vi Stone passed away, her daughter Stella Cooper shared with me a copy of Vi's seedling records. Vi was a good record keeper and kept detailed notes on seedlings as she observed them before selecting

and naming and registering them. There in her records was "Seedling #23 - 'Robert McNeese'. McNeese seedling - first grafted in 1974. Grafted 1/12/76. Stan Magee asked that I help register. #1810 - 2/82". Her notes then describe the flower, where the plant was in her garden

and trophies won at area shows in the 1980's.

The puzzle was solved! The tag identified as "Stan McNeese" was Seedling #23. I grew it under that name for years, the



C. japonica "Robert McNeese" 1981 R. McNeese, Bogalusa, LA

tag on her original graft had that name on it and I presume anyone else she shared scions with. Apparently, Vi identified the seedling she was observing provided by Stan Magee, from Robert McNeese, for help in registration by using this shorthand designation on the tag.

The following was provided by Robert H. McNeese, son of Robert

S. McNeese and completes the story of the “Robert McNeese” camellia.

"Sometime in the late 1950's, my dad, Robert S. McNeese and fellow camellia enthusiasts Warren Seal, Stan Magee, Jim Ray and Gus Bienvenue formed the Bogalusa Camellia Society. They all built greenhouses in their back yards and began growing and grafting camellias, which began for most of them a lifelong interest. They all participated in various Camellia Shows around the state each year,

particularly those in Slidell, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans, and at some point during those early years, my dad began to work on trying to introduce his own unique seedling. No one in my family can remember how long this took but he finally did succeed in discovering a new variety which was eventually named for him. Unfortunately, he passed away before it could be officially named and registered but my younger brother, Stan McNeese, became interested in honoring dad's legacy by getting the new Camellia named after him and getting it registered. I am not sure of the registration date but I think Art Landry has been able to reference the date and place.

"Many years passed and we had all but forgotten about the plant until my friend, Bob Christian, who is a member of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, called to tell me that he had purchased a “Robert McNeese” camellia; what a delightful surprise. I immediately

called my Mom and brother to ask about it and they confirmed that it was in fact named after dad. A few weeks later, my daughter discovered a beautiful specimen growing at the



Robert H. McNeese with Gerald Phares (r.), President of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society and Lynn Vicknair, GCCS President.

Burden Research Center, which we later determined had come from the Stone property and we confirmed it was the camellia that my dad had discovered.

"The entire McNeese family is grateful to the Baton Rouge Camellia Society for continuing to propagate and grow the beautiful variety and we want to give a special thanks to Gerald Phares for helping make these plants available to our family members."

The Baton Rouge Camellia Society continues to propagate plants of this fine camellia to share with all camellia enthusiasts.



Managing Your Camellia Collection

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA

You were just going to plant a few camellias. They were so pretty when they bloomed that you decided to plant a few more, and now your collection grows and grows.

One important thing that a collector must do is keep a detailed record of the collection showing such things as variety, type, date acquired, where acquired, date propagated, description and any other facts that you think you (or some future owner) may like to remember.

LABELS

The first thing to do is to label your plants with a somewhat permanent label, such as the standard aluminum tags that can be written on with a ball point pen. Since all labels have the ability to disappear, I like to put two or more labels on each plant. The second label can be something easier to read like those made from venetian blind slats or aluminum soft drink cans marked with a paint marker (don't use the so called "permanent" markers because they are not so permanent in the weather). Another option is to print out labels with your computer and laminate them or tuck them into a name badge holder and seal with packaging tape. The aluminum wires that come with the aluminum tags don't last very long so use copper wire, insulated telephone wire or small plastic zip-ties. The labels should contain all the information you would need to fill out a show card.



Some sample tags: 1. Printed and laminated, 2. Laminated paper tag aged 5 years. 3. Metal tag made from soft drink cans, scribed then lettered with paint marker, 4. Printed label inserted in name badge holder and sealed with tape. 5. Standard aluminum name tag.

A LIST

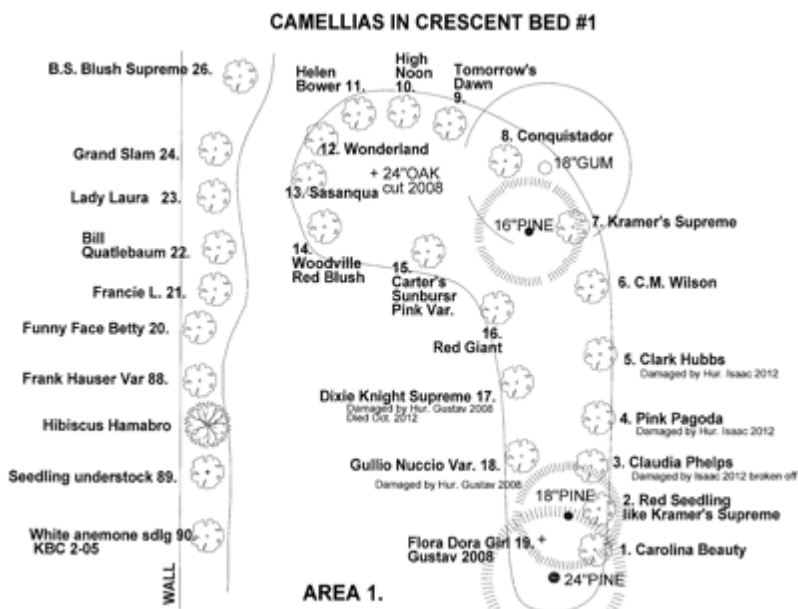
The next thing to do is make a list of all your camellias with all the information you want to remember. This can be a hand written list in a notebook or using a word processor or spreadsheet on the home computer. The advantage of the spreadsheet is that it can be sorted by any column. Following is a spreadsheet example:

Kenn Campbell - CAMELLIAS at 3310 Fairway Drive							1-8-13
Map	Name	Species	Acquired	Size	Description	Introd.	
1	Carolina Beauty	jap.	gr. 3-1-69	M-L	lt. pink, semi-dbl. w/ upright center petals	1959	
2	Red Seedling	jap.	where sprouted		looks like Kramer's Supreme	never	
3	Claudia Phelps - broken off Isaac 2012	jap.	gr. 2-24-68	L	spot of Duchess of Sutherland, pink shading wh to edge	1948	
4	Pink Pagoda - damaged Isaac 2012	jap.	gr. 2-25-69	M-L	rose pink formal double - wavy petals	1963	
5	Clark Hubbs - damaged Isaac 2012	jap.	gr. 2-25-69	M	brilliant dk red, full to loose peony, fimbriated pet	1950	
6	C. M. Wilson	jap.	airlay. 6-66	L-VL	lt. pink, sport of Elegans	1949	

A MAP

You may think that you can remember where all your plants are located and their names, but as you get more and more plants (and get older), I guarantee that you won't remember them all. Therefore, you should make a map showing all the camellias in your yard. It may be broken up into beds or areas to make it more manageable. It can be a simple hand drawn map or as fancy as you want to make it.

Give each bed or area a name or letter designation and number the plants to match the number on the list. A map and list will be very valuable when the collection passes on to someone else. Give a copy to a friend or your local camellia society in case you lose yours.



Keep your list, maps and other useful information such as grafting records, seedlings, etc. in a loose leaf notebook and keep it updated. You will enjoy looking at it from time to time, especially in the summer when it is too hot to go outside.

Don't wait until your collection gets unmanageable - do it now.



Labels from Soft Drink Cans



1. Rinse out empty cans and dry.



2. Punch hole in can and insert scissors to cut off top and bottom



**3. Cut along a straight line to open up can.
And trim rough edges.**



4. Flatten the 8" piece of metal by drawing across the edge of a table. Cut into four pieces.



**5. Round off sharp corners for safe handling.
Punch hole in tags with paper hole punch.**



6. Scribe information on label with ball point pen for permanence. Then go over with a paint marker for easier reading.

GULF COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING –OCT. 15, 2013

By Carol Comber, Secretary

The 2013 Annual meeting of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society was held in Spanish Fort, Alabama, on October 15, at the 5-Rivers Nature Center. It was hosted by the Mobile Camellia Society. The meeting was called to order at 8:45 by President Lynn Vicknair and opened with a prayer by Homer Richardson and followed by a moment of silence for lost loved ones.

The readings of the minutes from the 2012 meeting were waived since they were published in “The Camellian”.

The old/new business was that due to health problems Lynnette and Peter Soules had resigned and Lynn had appointed Carol Comber as Secretary and Mike Ruth as Treasurer to fill out their terms. The Board approved the appointments yesterday.

Lynn enclosed a GCCS membership form in each “goody bag” for each person to copy and distribute at their meetings and shows.

Last year 68 members attended the Annual Meeting and this year there are 75 attendees.



GCCS Treasurer Mike Ruth and his wife Ann man the registration Desk while Annual Meeting chairmen Vicki and Ed Baugh welcome members.



Hank Burch, the director of the 5- Rivers Delta Resource Center

Bob Stroud of the Investment Committee gave a financial report and said we have done very well during the last year. He reported a balance of \$74,342. The committee decided to put \$6,000 cash back into stock. Last year we had \$60,297 and at present we have \$74,343.

Hank Burch, the director of the 5-Rivers Delta Resource Center gave us a brief history of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta region and the projects that are improving habitat restoration and enhancement. This area is about 30 miles

long and 12 miles wide, immediately upstream of Mobile Bay. They are working to protect over 500 species of plants, bottomland hardwood forests, marsh animals, and 300 species of birds.

Buddy Lee, renowned Encore Azalea developer, spoke about camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons. His PowerPoint presentation included old pictures of plants when they were sold in tin cans. He told us he is now working on getting rhododendrons more adaptable to our coastal regions. He has not had too much luck growing the camellia-azalea in our area but he has worked extensively with the *c. sinensis* "tea plant." As he was talking he was giving out samples of all of his plants.

Celeste Richard, Executive Director of ACS, reminded us about the current ACS promotions going on now including the annual membership contests for clubs and individuals. She reminded the members about the

deadlines for registration for the ACS convention in Pensacola in December. She said she would extend the early bird registration for the next 2 days while we were at this meeting. She also has nomenclature books for sale. She said hopefully ACS will have a new Endowment Development Director soon.



Matthew Israel, ACS Operations Manager

Matthew Israel, the Operations Manager at Masee Lane, gave an extensive presentation about new and ongoing projects at Masee Lane. The perimeter chain link fence has been installed. Repairs on the Smith Greenhouse will start soon. Windows in the auditorium and Camellia House are being replaced. They are also replacing the sprinkler system and A/C

units. Matthew is getting very good at tearing down the used equipment and selling all usable parts. ACS is also in need of funds to finish a gravel parking lot.



l. to r. Jim Campbell, ACS Executive Director Celeste Richard, GCCS Secretary Carol Comber, and Bob Stroud.

James Farmer, the official spokesperson for ACS, demonstrated why he is the perfect person for the job. While he spoke in his soft southern drawl and told family and camellia stories about growing up right down the road from Massee Lane, he was decorating a wreath of greenery with fresh camellias.

Dick Hooton made a motion that since we had a good financial year with investments we should give Matthew \$2000 for the parking lot project. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed by the membership.

Dick Hooton reminded everyone to register for the ACS convention to be held in Pensacola in December. Vickie Bough announced that the Mobile Club will add two more awards to their show this year.

Lynn told members that the Northshore Club will host next years fall meeting and we are still looking for a 2015 location.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.



James Farmer, official spokesperson for ACS, entertained members with camellia stories.



After the Annual Meeting, many members took tours of Jim Smelley's huge greenhouses in Moss Point, Mississippi.

Air Layering Using the Air-Propagator - Part 2

By John Causey

Photos by Susan Moran

As I mentioned in the earlier article, the soil I used (potting soil, peat and perlite) mixture does not work quite as well as Mr. Hong Park's growing medium disk that comes with his propagators. I have since learned the disks hold up better in different weather conditions because it has an agent that holds and releases moisture when needed.

I live west of McComb, Mississippi, and the past few months have been dry resulting in my success rate of approximately 75%. The air layers at Jim Campbell's place, however, resulted in only a 50% success rate because of the fact of heavier amounts of rainfall.

The failure rate had other contributing factors. For example, my soil retained too much moisture and washed out of the bottoms of some of the propagators. Too much shade in one area where I was propagating and the cambium and bark welding were other factors attributing to failure rate.

It is necessary to take off that one inch of bark and cambium when air propagating. When opening the propagator to check for roots, I noticed that the roots favored the back side away from the sun. When checking the layers, be careful to not twist the propagator as it can shear the roots from the branch.



Mr. Park's growing medium disks expand to fill propagator when water is added.



John Causey examines an air layer for roots.



Hong Park remove air layers from other plane.



Air layers collected and moved to potting area.



John Causey processes an air layer. As the Parks and Jim Campbell look on.



Typical air layer using the Air-Propagator.



Mr. Hong Park explains air propagation to the North Shore Camellia Club.



Mr. And Mrs. Hong Park with Jim Campbell.

Mr. Park has a new design of his propagators. One side is clear for observation purposes, but it will be necessary to cover this with foil to block out the sun's rays. This will make taking an occasional peek considerably easier.

The trial with the propagators has taken seven months. The end result will be a plant equivalent to four years old. Depending on conditions and the growth rate of your camellia, it could be a little less.

Mr. Park also recommended that the cut plants be put in sand for three weeks to harden the root system before planting as the sand will allow it to harden off quickly.

A recap on what was done: The air propagating was done on March 27, 2013, and cut from the mother plant on October 27, 2013. These plants have buds and will bloom this year.

Mr. Park spoke to the North Shore Camellia Club and explained the process of air propagation which works with citrus fruit and a host of other plants as well as with camellias. His special growing medium disk included with his propagators encourages root development and binds the roots together. The propagators are reusable and inexpensive and are sold in a kit at www.airpropagator.com.

A very special thanks to Mr. Jim Campbell who hosted the Parks at his home over the week-end, and to Len and Susan Moran, Lisa Miller, Dana Ladiner and Mr. Hong Park.

May God Bless America.



Comber & Olsen Latest PCC Members To Register New Camellia Variety

By F. Norman Vickers, PCC Secretary

Carol Comber and Gabriel “Ole” Olsen are the most recent members of Pensacola Camellia Club (PCC) to register a new camellia variety.

Carol’s camellia, named “Carol Katie,” is a twelve year old chance seedling. It was named after a special family friend. Carol, a longtime Pensacola resident and PCC member, comes by her camellia interest naturally. Her late parents, John and Jean Comber were active in the camellia club and Jean was active with the American



Carol Comber & Gabriel “Ole” Olsen



“Carol Katie”

Camellia Society (ACS). Carol is active with the American Camellia Society and has served as membership representative for the International Camellia Society.

Ole's camellia, a first registry for him, is named "Amy Doodle" after a granddaughter. His camellia is a fifteen year old chance seedling. He settled in Pensacola after a career in the Air Force. He said that his family was in the nursery business in Mobile and he grafted his first camellia while still in grade school. He estimates that he has about eighty camellias in his yard. He frequently air-layers camellias in order to give plants to friends, fellow club members and for sale by PCC.



"Amy Doodle"

Carol and Ole are in a long line of PCC members who have registered camellias with the American Camellia Society. There are over 100 varieties which have been registered by PCC members since it was formed in 1937. In recent years nurseryman and past PCC president John Davy has registered the following camellia varieties: "Pop's Perfection," "Lori Clevenger," "Ruth McNair," "Daddy Mac" and "Sporting Class." He says that he has a number of other varieties to register when he gets around to it. Dick Hooton registered "Bette Anne" last year and Skip Vogelsang registered "Lundy's Legacy."





Katie, daughter of Kay and J. D. Thomerson of Valdosta, GA, enjoys a "Frank Houser Var." in her backyard. (From the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club newsletter.)

AROUND



"Pearl Buck" (above) and "Ray Gentry" (right) are among twenty one proclaimed as "Amazing Big Red Retics" in the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club Newsletter.

Floral designs for the Annual Meeting provided by the Spanish Fort Garden Club





*Richard Hooton disbuds and gibs at a Pensacola Camellia Club meeting.
(PCC - Newsletter)*

THE REGION



Photo by Dennis Kohli

(Above) LeAnna Brennan talks about air-layering and preparations for harvesting of club air-layers. (PCC Newsletter)



(Left) Jin Smelley receives the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Award of Merit. See inscription on next page. (Mobile Camellia Club)

- **Atlantic Coast Camellia Society**
- **Award of Merit**
- **2013**

IN APPRECIATION

FOR

JAMES SMELLEY AND ELAINE SMELLEY

With great appreciation the members of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society present this award of merit to James and the late Elaine Smelley for your outstanding accomplishments. Your commitment, leadership, and dedication has helped make our camellia society a success.

The members of the ACCS have treasured your friendship, support, and inspiration to the goals of the ACCS throughout the years. We appreciate the generous donations of your time, your plants, and your blooms with the club and the unselfish sharing of your camellia knowledge. Thank you for sharing your greenhouses, and hybridizing some of the finest camellias ever introduced. Our world is a lovelier place because of your untiring contributions to the camellia world.



Camellia Websites

American Camellia Society

www.americancamellias.org

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

Baton Rouge Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/brcamellias

Birmingham Camellia Society

www.birminghamcamellias.com

Brookhaven Camellia Society

www.homerichardson.com/camellia

Camellia Society of North Florida

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html

Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX

www.coushattacamelliasociety.org

Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety

Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society

www.afn.org/-camellia/

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.gulfcoastcamellias.org

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society

Mobile Camellia Society

www.mobilecamellia.org

Northshore Camellia Society

www.northshorecamelliasociety.org

Pensacola Camellia Club

www.pensacolacamellioclub.com

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



In the Winter Garden

By Art Landry

Winter is the time to enjoy the fruit of your labors as the camellias move into their peak blooming period. The plants need ample moisture to bloom, so water every week that they 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. See next page for planting instructions. Collect mulching materials (leaves, pine straw, etc) and keep your plants well mulched.

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 mid-season varieties are in full swing, and the late season bloomers are starting. We seldom have hard freezes in February to interrupt the blooming. Try to get all your grafting done this month. If you are inexperienced at grafting contact your local camellia club about a demonstration or hands-on assistance in learning. Check container grown plants if rainfall is sparse, and water as needed.

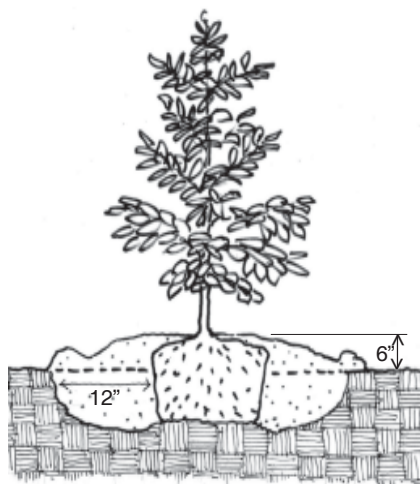
Planting a Camellia

SELECTION

Most camellia plants are now grown and sold in containers and may be purchased anytime of the year. When selecting a plant, verify that the root ball contains healthy, white feeder roots as well as healthy looking leaves and growth buds. If the root ball is primarily in loose ground bark, take extra precautions to never let the roots dry out.

PLANTING

Careful planting is important in growing camellias. Choose locations, if possible, where there is some natural protection from strong winds and morning sun. Camellias do well in partial shade to full shade. These plants are grown in a wide variety of subsoil, but are not well adapted to heavy types. Mix into the soil a high percentage of organic matter such as coarse peat, shredded pine bark, leaf mold, compost or well decomposed manure. If the roots are in a loose mix, make sure to work



the new soil into the root ball. When planting it is important to **avoid deep planting**. The root ball should be well above ground level after the plant settles. Water thoroughly and mulch well. Late fall to early spring are the best times to plant; however, they will do well at other times of the year if watered properly. Do not feed immediately after planting, but they can be watered with a root stimulator solution to promote root growth.

MULCHING & WATERING

Providing a good mulch the year round is very important. It helps the soil retain moisture, keeps down summer weeds and in winter prevents deep freezing of the soil and plant dehydration. Cover to a depth of 2 to 4 inches. Water thoroughly once a week during dry spells. Provide 1" of water each week without rain. This is especially important for the first two years of establishment. Established plants require less watering except in times of prolonged drought.



Camellia Show Dates 2013-2014

12 & 13 October 2013 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry Georgia.

9 November 2013 - Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society

Westwood Retirement Resort, 1001 N. Mar-Walt Drive, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

9 & 10 November 2013 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Byron Municipal Complex, Byron, GA

23 November 2013 - Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Lyman Community Center, 13472 Highway 49, Gulfport. MS (4 mi. North of I 10)

7 December 2013 - Valdosta Camellia Society, Valdosta, GA.

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

7 December 2013- Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA

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

14 December 2013 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL

ACS Convention and National Camellia Show

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

21 December 2013 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA

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

? January 2014 - Gainesville Camellia Society, Gainesville, FL.

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

11 January 2014 - Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA—To Be Announced

18 & 19 January 2014 – Camellia Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL

Colonial Mall, Bel Air, Mobile, AL.

18 January 2014 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX.

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

1 & 2 February 2014—Brookhaven Camellia Society, Brookhaven, MS

Brookhaven Recreation Department, Highway 51 N.

8 February 2014 - Southeast Alabama Camellia Club, Dothan, AL

First Methodist Church Family Center, 1380 West Main St., Dothan, AL

9 & 10 February 2014 – Baton Rouge Camellia Society, Baton Rouge, LA

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

15 February 2014 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Huntsville, TX.

Senior Education Center, 1400 19th Street, Huntsville, TX

22 & 23 February 2014 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Fort Valley, GA

Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley, GA.

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.



Editor's Note

By Kenn Campbell



After another wonderful Annual Meeting, we stopped on the way home to tour Jim Smelley's greenhouses. You talk about a hobby that has gotten out of hand - two huge greenhouses chock full of japonicas and retics. He has to keep cutting them back because "they grow like weeds." Nice problem to have. There were some little things I noticed also. He lines out sasanquas in garden rows about a foot apart, then grafts them in the ground after a year or so. He then digs and pots them as he needs to give one to someone. I came home and made a bed for my sasanqua seed that were planted last year. I planted two dozen seedlings and in a couple of years I will have some nice understock and without having to fool around with pots for two years.

Many thanks to Randolph Maphis who sent me an 8GB flash drive with 3962 pictures on it. And they are of good quality as is typical of Randolph's pictures. Of course there are some duplicates, but the *Camellian* will not run out of pictures in my lifetime. It is amazing that such a small one-inch thing could hold that many pictures.



Also greatly appreciated are the contributions to the *Camellian* endowment fund that members included with their Annual Meeting registration. This fund supplements the printing cost of the *Camellian* and allows us to print it in full color. Contributors to the fund were:

Breeland, Alfred & Renae
Campbell, James
Campbell, Kenn & Ruby
Christian, Rebecca & Bob
Davis, Rosamay
Dickson, Caroline
Hegwood, Patrick
Holmes, Joe & Laura
Hooten, Richard & Bette
James, Trent (In memory of
Michele Hegwood)
Jenus, Joseph
Jones, Fred & Sandra
Mangham, Will

Phares, Gerald & Sharon
Piazza, Nick
Richardson, Homer & Lynn
Ruth, Mike & Ann
Stroud, Robert & Erin
Surles, Milton & Claire
Vanis, Hal
Vicknair, Lynn

C. reticulata
"Brooke Maphis"
2008 Homeyer

Photo by
Randolph Maphis



Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join



C. japonica "Mrs. D.W. Davis" 1954, by D. W. Davis, Seffner, FL



C. japonica "Alta Gavin" 1962, by J. E. Gavin, Shreveport, LA



C. japonica "Charlotte Bradford" 1950, by Wayside Nursery, Ocean Springs, MS



C. japonica "R. L. Wheeler" 1949, by Wheeler Central Georgia Nursery, Macon, GA

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 October through September each year. Life Membership is available at \$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 Michael Ruth, 726 High Plains Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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Georgia	Mark Crawford
Louisiana	Jim Campbell
Mississippi	James Smelley, Carl Moran
Tennessee	Richard Frank
Texas	Claudette Shelter

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Photo by Randolph Maphis

C. reticulata "Ray Gentry Var." 2004 by Hulen Smith, Valdosta, GA.