

THE GULF COAST

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'Claudia Phelps'

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The Gulf Coast Camellian

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From Our Cover

C. japonica 'Caludia Phelps,' a sport of 'Duchess of Sutherland,' was named for Mrs Claudia Phelps who left her collection of rare camellia books to the University of South Carolina Special Collections Library. See story page 18.





President's Message

Lynn Vicknair

The more I am around Camellia people, the more I am certain most of them are crazy! How many normal people would arrive at a camellia show with no flowers? The New Orleans Club put out the word to come to their show even if you had no blooms. It did not matter to them, they just had a party. There were fewer than 300 blooms to judge but there was plenty of good food and good company. The three person judging teams took their time and explained a lot of details to the novices.

It was not the fault of the exhibitors that there were no blooms. The temperature had been in the teens for three nights before the show as we experienced the "polar vortex." It was a major miracle there were any blooms at all. Paul Huerkamp put his flowers into three categories- light brown, medium brown and dark brown. All of my blooms looked like miniatures. Then Jim

Smelley arrives with his protected blooms that have no bruises. His flowers were spectacular

Besides being growers, hybridizers, propagators, grafters, plant pathologists, entomologists, chemists, weed scientists, water specialists, and horticulturists we now have to be meteorologists. The time to cut your blooms is becoming an exact science.

The New Orleans club members were very gracious hosts and we all made the best of our time together. They were grateful to all who attended.

I am also reminded of the crazy exhibitors who came to the Baton Rouge show two years ago. The Texans came in the hail. They drove for 8 hours. The judges from Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi also drove through the hailstorm and Jim Campbell turned a one hour trip into a three hour adventure. I must be crazy too since

(Continued on page 8)



*New Orleans Camellia Club Show.
Best M/L japonica unprotected
'Donnan's Dream'*

Gulf Coast Region Welcomes International Camellia Society Visitors

After attending the Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society in Pensacola, FL, some board members of the International Camellia Society visited the Mobile Botanic Garden, in Mobile, AL, and the LSU Burden Museum and Gardens in Baton Rouge, LA to evaluate each as a possible Garden of Excellence with the International Camellia Society. Criteria had to be met through application before the evaluation could be scheduled.

On December 16, 2013, Pat Short and Ron Wolf of the International Camellia Society visited the Mobile Botanical Gardens. They were escorted on their tour by Bobby Green, of Green Nurseries, MBG's Lead Horticulture and Science Advisor Bill Finch, Board President Judy Stout, and Executive Director Robin Krchak.

Mrs. Short and Mr. Wolf spent a pleasant time in the Winter Garden, then went on to lunch with Forrest Latta followed by a short tour of



The Winter Garden at the Mobile Botanic Gardens.



In foreground l. to r. Bobby Green, ICS President Pat Short, and MGB's Bill Finch.



Gerald Phares, Herb Short, Pat Short, Denham Springs Mayor Jimmy Durbin, Florence Crowder and Joe Holmes.



Baton Rouge Camellia Society President Gerald Phares leads the hay wagon tour of the Burden Gardens and Museum.



Florence Crowder watches as Pat and Herb Short plant the Alba Plena.

Bellingrath Gardens before they continued their journey to Baton Rouge.

Following their Mobile visit, Patricia Short, President of the International Camellia Society, and her husband Herb, both of London, England, were met in Slidell, LA, by Florence Crowder who escorted them on a visit of Jim Campbell's Nursery in Covington, LA. They then stopped to tour the Hody Wilson camellia garden at the LSU Ag Center in Hammond and a quick tour of the camellias about Denham Springs including the Scivicque family garden of Florence and her sisters, Jama Scivicque, Janice Roach and Joan Sibley.

After being welcomed by Denham Springs Mayor Jimmy Durbin, the Shorts were joined by members of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society for dinner at Don's Seafood Restaurant.

Wednesday included the Burden hay wagon tour of the Stone Garden of Higo's, orientals and other varieties that were donated by the Stone family to the Burden Center that includes a large number of their introductions, Windrush Gardens, Rural

Life Museum along with the test crops, production and facilities of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society.

At the end of the tour, members gathered for a planting of Camellia japonica, 'Alba Plena' in a new garden of pre-1900 US introductions at the center donated in memory of Ethel 'Nook' and J. L. Scivicque, parents of Crowder and her sisters. There will be a formal dedication of this garden at a later date as planting nears completion.

Lunch followed at the center with a social hour before leaving for the Louisiana state capitol to view camellias planted there in the early 1930s by E. A. McIlhenny, then to the LSU main campus where they were welcomed by Fred Feiner, arborist and Michael Polozola, graduate student. Dr. Trent James met the party at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Minsky to observe the camellias there.

The next morning the Shorts were on their way to Missouri to visit with Patricia's father during the holidays.

Results of the evaluation will be revealed at the International Camellia Society meeting in Pontevedra, Spain, in March 2014.



Herb and Pat Short visit the Louisiana State Capitol Gardens to see camellias planted by E.A. McIlhenny in the 1930s.



Dr. Trent James takes the Short's for a visit to the Minsky garden.

From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson

Brookhaven, Mississippi



Oh, the weather outside is frightful, the fire is so delightful, true. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! no, no, no, please let it get warm! My apologies to the writer of that song, but I do not share those sentiments about snow. This has been a long, cold, strange winter. I am more than ready for spring. Whether we will have spring is seeming more and more doubtful by the day. I know I promised our Lord that if we got back home to Mississippi, I would not complain about the weather. Having reread the contract, so to speak, there wasn't anything about not whining in there. At least, I couldn't find it.

I am so sick of winter clothes that if it ever gets warm, I may put them in a bonfire. Usually by this time of year, there have been a few days warm enough to wear a long-sleeve shirt instead of a sweater.

Anyway, the poor camellias are worthy of our pity. We have not had a single bloom to put in a show since November. Even then, there were very few. All of our friends

and fellow judges have been in the same situation. The blooms that have opened here have suffered terribly. If anyone had blooms for a show, they had cut them right before our very predictable mid-week cold

snap. It seems that every week for the last couple of months we have had a couple of bitterly cold days and nights in the middle of the week. This week is no exception. The weather service is predicting snow, sleet, or freezing rain for tonight,

tomorrow and into Wednesday. Silly me, since the show season is almost over, I thought the weather would improve. Not happening.

Every year, when we have gone to the Baton Rouge show, we could see things blooming the further south we went. Not this year, we haven't even seen the red normally seen in the swamp maples in January, even up north. In the winter we normally have a lot of camellias to put on the dining table and the kitchen table. This year I have been buying tulips for that. I love them but they are not easy to grow here.



*Brookhaven Camellia Show
Best Small - Protected
C. japonica 'Les Marbury'*

They have to be refrigerated for six weeks, etc. I did go out in the yard yesterday and found four daffodils in bud, some flowering quince in bud and that was it. The one flower that signifies spring will be here eventually is the bluet. The brave little things are not up yet and are



Bluet Houstonia caerulea

not even thinking about it. Perhaps we will have camellias for Easter?

We did have a good show in Brookhaven this year, many, many thanks to our good friends and judges who came and brought flowers. We were so glad to see them and the flowers. At least we did have a chance to visit with everybody. Thanks also to our vendors who brought lovely bushes, too. We all seem to have a really bad case of cabin fever. I do apologise for the lengthy whine, guess I just had to "bust out." Perhaps the weather will get better soon!



President's Message

(Continued from page 3)

I have trekked to Brookhaven in the snow!

The weather did improve for the Mobile show and there were more blooms on display there. Hopefully we will be seeing more flowers at the remaining shows. I love the camellia shows and apparently so do a lot of other crazy people.

The weather was a little chilly for the Recent ACS meeting in Pensacola but the PCC kept us moving. They toured us around their wonderful city, their history-filled Naval Air Museum, public and private camellia gardens, and John Davy's fascinating Panhandle Nursery. They fed us delicious meals and topped it off with an awesome camellia show. The next ACS conference will be in Tallahassee in 2015.

Now is the time to get ready for spring. This is a good time to complete your transplanting. Check for scale and spray with your favorite oil spray. Remember to pick up all of your spent blooms to prevent the spread of petal blight. Add more mulch to your plants. Now that you can see all of your blooms share your scions with your friends and have a grafting party.



*New Orleans Show - Best Large Japonica
'Royal Velvet'*

Grafting by the Moon

By Kenn Campbell

No, I don't mean going out at midnight when the moon is full to finish your grafting. This is about timing your grafting by the moon phases.

At one of our club grafting sessions a couple of years ago, we started discussing whether the moon phases had any effect on grafting. Some people are firmly convinced that there are proper phases of the moon to plant seed for various types of crops and these are noted in most almanacs. None of us had ever heard of any recommendations regarding grafting.

Since I have kept records since 1969 of my grafts, I thought it would be interesting to see how they fared compared to moon phases. The number of 'takes' varied from 100% in some years to zero in others with varying success in most. Why the difference?

With the help of the Internet, I looked up the moon phases for all my grafting dates and proceeded to tabulate my findings. The results are shown in the table. The highest percentage of 'takes,' at 85%, were grafts made

Continued on page 11

GRAFTING BY MOON PHASES.												
YEAR	NEW MOON			1ST QTR			FULL			LAST QTR.		
	grafts	takes	%	grafts	takes	%	grafts	takes	%	grafts	takes	%
1969				29	29	100%						
1970										3	2	67%
1971	21	10	48%									
1972				6	5	83%	7	3	43%			
1973	7	2	29%				6	0	0%			
1975							10	2	20%			
1976							21	6	29%			
1977-1997 no grafts made												
1998	2	1	50%									
1999				5	2	25%						
2003				3	2	67%						
2004				3	3	100%						
2005	2	2	100%				1	1	100%	3	3	100%
2006				3	3	100%				11	9	82%
2007				4	4	100%	5	4	80%	2	0	0%
2008	3	3	100%				6	6	100%	2	2	100%
2009	10	5	50%	2	2	100%	3	1	33%	5	4	80%
2010	9	4	44%							2	1	50%
2011	2	0	0%	4	3	75%	12	7	58%	10	9	90%
2012	12	6	50%				13	2	15%			
2013	3	1	33%				13	6	46%	10	5	50%
TOTALS	71	34	48%	62	53	85%	97	38	39%	48	36	73%
	NEW MOON			1ST QTR			FULL			LAST QTR.		
	48%			85%			39%			73%		
	Total Grafts 278			Total Takes 160			% Takes 58%					

Camellia reticulata ‘Captain Rawes’



Camellia reticulata, ‘Captain Rawes.’ The first *reticulata* introduced to the Western World.

The early camellia varieties in Britain were all imports from the Far East, brought back by naval or merchant ships as exotic gifts for family or friends.

The first introduction of *C. reticulata* was made by the East Indiaman skipper, Captain Richard Rawes, in 1820, who brought back from China an unnamed camellia, which he gave to a relative, Thomas Carey Palmer, Esq. of Bromley, Kent, England, who had his own conservatory. It first flowered in 1826. In 1824 a further import was made by John Dampier Parks which flowered in 1827 and a description and illustration was published in the

Botanical Register, 1827 by John Lindley who gave it the botanical rank of *C. reticulata*.

In the same year an illustration of Captain Rawes' plant was published in the *Botanical Magazine*, but exhibited differences to the plate of Park's plant. As pointed out by Robert Sealy in a letter to Kew 26/2/63, the illustration of the plant imported by Parks has a well developed gynoecium while that of Rawes' importation does not. It would thus appear that a fertile and an infertile form may have been introduced. This would seem to be borne out by the fact that the camellia generally

known as 'Captain Rawes' has proved to be a most infertile triploid. On the other hand there have been reports from time to time of seedlings from what is nominally this camellia. The first name given, that of *Camellia reticulata*, is regarded as a species name and not applicable as a cultivar name. [*International Camellia Register 1993*]

'This *Camellia* came from China. It is considered by all botanists as a distinct species. It differs, in all respects, from *C. Japonica*, by its rounded, flat, and strongly reticulated leaves, as well as by its silken ovary, which is not to be found in the other species; bud very large, conical, two inches long before it opens; calyx pentaphyllous, of a yellowish green; leaves oblong, acuminate, reticulate, dentate, of a deep green; flower very large, five inches in diameter, semi-double; petals, in number from twenty to twenty three, undulated and inserted in a loose and irregular manner, of a bright cherry-red, No.2, shaded with

rose; stamens numerous and irregularly placed, some erect and others curved; anthers broad, of a dull brownish yellow, which but illy comports with the splendour of the petals." [Berlès *Monography* p.49/1838].



Camellia Reticulata,
Captain Rawes's Camellia.
Illustration by Alfred Chandler 1831.

Grafting by the Moon - continued from page 9

at or near the 1st Quarter of the moon. The Last Quarter came in a close second. The lowest at 39% was at full moon, with the New Moon at 49%.

Too many variables exist in grafting, such as condition of scions and understock, etc., for this limited data to prove anything, but since all the grafts were made by the same person using the same techniques for all, it does seem to indicate a trend.

Since I need all the help I can get, I will try to do my grafting as near the dates of the 1st Quarter or the Last Quarter of the moon as I can in the future.



The Strange Case of 'Sukiya'

By Kenn Campbell

I have a camellia plant that I call my “understock tree.” It is a prolific bloomer and seed setter. The seed fall and sprout in the mulch and every year I dig up a dozen or two and pot them up to grow for understock.

The plant is C. wabisuke ‘Sukiya.’ My father grafted the scion he got from Vi Stone in the mid 1950s. When I first saw it bloom I said, “Why did you graft that?” He had lined out 70 to 80 balled and burlaped sasanquas and was looking for scions to fill them up and accepted anything he was offered.

He never mulched his camellias, but preferred to mow and hoe around them. After he died and it fell my lot to tend them, I didn’t wait long to “Roundup” the

grass and mulch them as beds.

The ‘Sukiya’ seedlings that bloomed before I could graft them were small single flowers much like their parent and received no notice. As the years passed, more seedlings

sprouted than I could use and most were chopped down. Due to my lack of attention, some of these grew to blooming size, most of which were small singles. A few years ago I noticed a nice red anemone flower (fig. 1) on one of the understock plants and wondered how that could have happened. Then last year a couple of the seedlings growing near the mother plant had nice white peony form blooms (figs. 2 & 3). And on this past Christmas Day, I was surprised to find a pretty blush pink striped rose

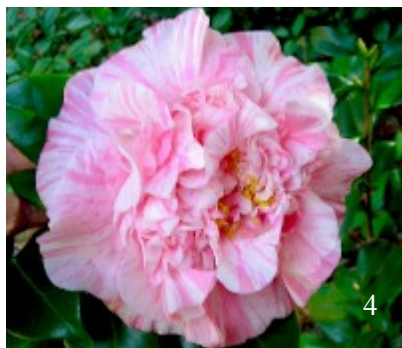


C. wabisuke ‘Sukiya’-Pinkish White. Small single. Vigorous open growth. Early to midseason.



The ‘Sukiya’ plant with numerous seedling underneath.

Seedlings of 'Sukiya'



pink anemone form bloom on a seedling growing under 'Sukiya' (fig. 4). They are all large to very large.

If old 'Sukiya' could produce such nice blooms with only the help of bees, what could she do with the help of a knowledgeable hybridizer? But since I am 83 years old, I am not too inclined to take up the business of hybridizing. That will be left to others.

The question is - "What are these flowers?" *Camellia Nomenclature* and *The International Camellia Register* both list 'Sukiya' as species wabisuke. However, information from the *Register* raises doubts that wabisuke is even a species as it is "among the doubtful and excluded species" and even suggests that it is a cross between *C. japonica* and *C. sinensis*, and a hybrid of "very low fertility or totally infertile." While *Camellia Nomenclature* lists wabisuke as a species, it adds - "Origin unknown. Reported that it is a Japonica sub-species."

So how do you account for 'Sukiya'? It has all the characteristics of a Japonica and is very fertile. Where did it come from and what is it? A good guess would be that it is a cross between a wabisuke and a japonica or even just a japonica seedling. Should its seedlings be classed as japonicas or as non-retic hybrids? Maybe someday the genetic scientists will get it sorted out.

In the meantime, if I were a knowledgeable hybridizer, I would want to try it in my breeding program.



The Camellia 'Momoiro Bokuhan'

By Art Landry

We get questions from visitors to the Stone Camellia Garden at Burden about 'Momoiro Bokuhan' because of its prolific blooming of peach pink blooms with light colored anemone center.

American Camellia Society (ACs) yearbook when it was registered with ACS by Vi Stone. The blooms are small with pink guard petals and an anemone center of white petaloids. The cultivar originated in the Kansai



C. japonica 'Momoiro Bokuhan'

This cultivar is not listed in the current issue of the SCCS Nomenclature book. It is described in the *International Camellia Register* and the 1986

area of Japan about 1960. Vi Stone's records of her camellia registrations notes that " ... scions originally sent to me from Japan ... " but she gave no dates.

She received permission from Japan to register the cultivar in the US and did so in 1986 (ACS Registration #2006). She noted her understanding that this was a sport of the original 'Bokuhan' but the *International Camellia Register* does not confirm that. The name in Japanese means "Peach Colored Anemone."

The cultivar 'Bokuhan', which originated in Japan in 1719 has red guard petals with the white petaloid anemone center. It was imported from Japan in 1930 by Star Nursery in California and given the synonym 'Tinsie' by Harry Davis of El Monte, CA. It is grown in the USA mostly under this synonym.

In 1959 Harvey Short originated a sport he called 'Tinsie Two' and described it as having deep rose red guard petals with pink stamens and petaloids in the anemone center.

The *Colour Dictionary of Camellias* by Stirling Macaboy in 1981 lists a 'Tinsie Blush'

which is a synonym for 'Momoiro Bokuhan'.

Another sport of 'Tinsie' was introduced in 1992 called 'Tinsie Gold' by Dr. G. Downe, Victoria, Australia. It is a genetic leaf sport with its leaves containing a yellow border.

The latest sport of 'Tinsie' is listed in the book *Camellias* by Y. C. Shen in 2009 as 'Tinsie Grande'.

It is described as a larger flower than the parent and with



C. japonica 'Bokuhan' or 'Tinsie' originated in Japan in 1719.

the anemone center a mixture of red and white frilled petaloids. So the original 'Bokuhan' has become a family

with several variations. Let's enjoy each on its own merits, or get them all to enjoy the common elements as well as the differences. We'll continue to enjoy the "Peach Colored Anemone" or 'Momoiro Bokuhan' on every visit we make to the Stone section of Burden Gardens. Join us when you can.





*Baton Rouge Camellia Show 2014
Best Medium in open - c. japonica
'Anita.'*



*Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell La.
Best Small Unprotected - C.
Japonica 'Little Babe Var.'*

AROUND



Camellia plant sales at the Baton Rouge Show were handled by (l.to r.) Danny Breaud, Wayne Hiter, customer, and Michael Polozola. Almost 200 plants were sold.



*Tallahassee Show
Best Novice R/U
Bob Hope.*



The Best L/VL Protected at the North Shore Camellia Show was c. japonica 'Mary Fischer.'



*Dr. Bill Bennett is interviewed by 1
Annual Meeting in Pensacola.*



Valdosta Camellia Show



Valdosta Camellia Show. Most Outstanding Bloom Protected - C. reticulata 'Hall's Pride Var.'



Best Min. Unprotected at Camellia Club of Mobile Show - 'Tama Bambino'



ACS National Camellia Show. Most Outstanding Bloom Protected - C. reticulata 'Pete Galli.'

THE REGION



Reporter Melissa Nelson at the ACS



ACS National Camellia Show Chairman Skip Vogelsang and John Davy at the ACS Annual Meeting in Pensacola, FL.



A Treasure Trove of Rare Camellia Books

By Ruby G. Campbell

When my husband, Kenn Campbell, who is also the editor of *The Camellian* asked me to write an article for the journal, my initial reaction was, "I don't know anything about camellia culture!" But being a retired librarian, I do know something about books and a little research led me to the collection of rare illustrated books about camellias – their history, cultivation, and early varieties – donated to the University of South Carolina by Miss Claudia Lea Phelps, daughter of Mrs. Sheffield Phelps, neé Claudia Wright Lea, following the death of her mother in April 1955.

Mrs. Phelps was the daughter of Adelaide Moore and Preston Lea, governor of Delaware, and was the founder and first president of the Garden Club of South Carolina. She had visualized one large body of garden clubs in South Carolina, and in 1930 invited representatives from twelve active clubs across the state to meet at her home, Rose Hill, in Aiken. The ladies, some of whom admitted to

"buying new dresses" for the occasion were "almost giddy with excitement" as they shared ideas during the luncheon at the dining table which seated over sixteen people. Eighty-four years later, the club, now federated with the National council of State Garden Clubs is still going strong.

The period 1815 to 1860 was the heyday of interest in the camellia, and Mrs. Phelps appears to have obtained virtually every significant work on the subject printed at that time. As a result, her collection of rare books tells the story of how camellias were brought to Europe in the early 1700s from the Far East and later to America. It tells

how the plants were identified and named and how the varieties were developed by 19th century growers. The collection also includes some of the earliest published depictions of the camellia as well as hand colored copperplate engravings.

The name "camellia" was given in honor of Georg Joseph Kamel (1661-1706) also known as



Claudia Phelps
(18xx-1955)

Camellus, a Czech Jesuit botanist and missionary to the Philippines, by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) who developed the binomial system of genus and species for the naming of plants. Kamel never went to either China or Japan and is unlikely to have “discovered” the camellia, but he was well known for his work with oriental plants and is the author of the first descriptions of the Philippine flora and fauna entitled *Herbarium aliarumque stirpium in insula Luzone Philippinarum* (“Herbs and Medicinal Plants in the island of Luzon, Philippines”). Unfortunately, his first shipment of botanical drawings fell into the hands of pirates and was lost. Originally from Moravia, Kamel went to the Philippines in 1688 and established a pharmacy in Manila where poor people were supplied with remedies for free.

The most coverage given in early accounts of the camellia was that of the Dutchman, Englebert Kaempfer, who lived in Nagasaki in the early 1690s. Kaempfer’s *Amoenitates Exoticarum* (1712) devoted nearly two and a-half pages to the plant under the Japanese names of “Tsubakki” and “sasanqua,” with accompanying illustrations. Following Kaempfer’s death, his specimens and papers were obtained by the British scientist, Sir Hans Sloane, who had his *History of Japan* translated into English by J. C. Sheuhzer in 1728.

Georg Dionysius Ehtret (1708-1770), German botanical artist, was



Georg Ehtret first to use the original Japanese name ‘tsubaki’ and the new name ‘camellia’ in his plate in *Hortus nittidissimis*.

the first to use both the original Japanese name “tsabekki” (or “tsubaki”) and the new scientific name “camellia” for his 1778 plate, “Camellia. Tsabekki,” found in Christoph Trew’s *Hortus nittidissimis* (Nuremberg, 1768-1786).

William Curtis, a London nursery-man, founded his *Botanical Magazine* in 1788 which would become the most important horticultural periodical of the next fifty years. In his text he noted “the Camellia is generally treated as a stove plant (one requiring a heated greenhouse), but it seems one of the properest plants imaginable for the conservatory, and only the high price at which it has hitherto been sold has prevented it being hazarded as an outdoor plant like the

Magnolia.” The full title of Curtis’ work: *The Botanical Magazine; or Flower-Garden Displayed: in which the most ornamental Foreign Plants, cultivated in the open ground, the Green-house, and the Stove, will be accurately represented in their natural colours.* (London, 1788).

The Honourable East India Company, established for pursuing trade with the East Indies but ended up trading mainly with the Indian subcontinent and China, led many British families to the area. When the HEIC turned into a military power, additional men joined in. Thus were camellias introduced into Britain as gifts sent to friends. William Beattie Booth and Alfred Chandler portrayed many of these in their *Illustrations and Descriptions of the Plants Which Compose the Natural Order*

Camellieae, and of the Varieties of Camellia Japonica, Cultivated in the Gardens of Great Britain, vol. one. A copy recently sold at auction for £9,840 (US \$16,411). Included in this volume is a “Double striped camellia,” variegata, one of the first double camellias to reach Britain.

Another text in the Phelps’ collection is a manuscript by the above-mentioned Booth read to the Sir Joseph Banks’ Horticultural Society in two sessions in the fall of 1829. “The History and Description of the Species of Camellia . . . that have been imported from China,” and later printed in *Transactions of the Horticultural Society*, 7 (1830), is considered a landmark in the formal recognition of the camellia, listing six species and twenty-three different varieties.

A Monograph on the Genus Camellia, written by Samuel Curtis, a cousin of the founder of the *Botanical Magazine*, and illustrated by Clara Maria Pope, published in London by J. & A. Arch, 1819, is generally recognized as the greatest of English illustrated camellia books



C. japonica 'Variegata.'
Illustration by Alfred Chandler 1831.

and is treasured for its stunning illustrations.

Lorenzo Berlèse, the Abbé Berlèse (1784-1863) was considered the greatest camellia scholar of the 19th century. Although he was born and died in Italy, Berlèse carried out his studies

in Paris where his private wealth allowed him to establish his own greenhouses. The first edition of his book, *Monography of The Genus Camellia: Or an Essay on its Culture, Description, and Classification* (Paris, 1837), began to establish a formal classification system of camellia varieties. His first classification efforts focused on color, not flower-form. One of the biggest problems in color-description at the time was that expensive engraved books were handcolored with inevitable variations of shade or tint. The color chart in his second edition essentially doomed any attempt to provide a single standard for color descriptions. In his third edition (1831), Berlèse based his classification system on flower-form and the seven plates in this work illustrate the main flower shapes that European growers had developed. In this edition, Berlèse listed 701 varieties.

One of the Abbé Berlèse's most influential projects was the huge three-volume set of camellia illustrations, the *Iconographie du*

genre Camellia; ou, Description et figures des camellis les plus beaux et les plus rare: peints d'après nature, covering 300 varieties (Paris, 1841-43).

Camellia "Mazeppa" was named for the hero of one of Lord Byron's poems which describes the traumatic journey of the hero who was strapped naked to his horse as punishment for his love affair with the Count's young wife. But the best known literary reference to camellias is Alexander Dumas' *La*

dame aux Camélias (1849) which was the basis for Verdi's opera *La Traviata* (1853). Most of the plates from the *Iconographie* may be seen at http://www.audubonart.com/02_gall_CAM5.asp.

Soon after the completion of this work, Berlèse abandoned camellias, sold off his entire collection to a

commercial garden enterprise, and returned to Italy.

Ambrose Alexandre Verschaffelt (1825-1886) continued Berlèse's work in the 14 volume *Nouvelle iconographie des camellias: contenant les figures et la description des plus rares, des*



C. japonica 'Mazeppa.' From *Berlèse's Iconographie du genre Camellia; ... 1841.*

plus nouvelles et des plus belles variétés de ce genre. (Gand: Verschaffelt, 1848-60.) While the majority of early 19th century camellia varieties were named for aristocratic patrons or commercial growers, after 1845, the year of nationalist revolutions, new varieties were named after national heroes or leaders, as the Italian national hero Guiseppe Garibaldi or the Hungarian independence fighter, Louis Kossuth.

In America, three camellias have been named for George Washington, two red and one white, while Jeffersoni, Franklinii, Jacksoni, and even Clintonia are found.

The standard history, *Camellias in America* by Harold Hume, was based in part on the Phelps books. Hume knew Mrs. Phelps and included the variety named for her, Claudia Lea, introduced by an Augusta, GA, grower in 1939, which is a delicate pink color. Ten years later, in 1948, another Augusta nursery introduced a second variety named for the Phelpses, 'Claudia Phelps,' larger, and pinker, though splashed with white (see cover).

These are just some of the books in the Phelps collection which are held by The Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections located in the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, at the south side of the main Thomas Cooper Library on the campus of the University of South Carolina in



*Named for Heros
C. japonica 'Garibaldi.'*
From Berleses's *Iconographie du genre
Camellia; ... 1841.*



*Named for Places
C. japonica 'Philadelphus vera.'*
From Berleses's *Iconographie du genre
Camellia; ... 1841.*



Named for People
***C. japonica* 'Sweetii vera.'**
From Berleses's *Iconographie du genre*
***Camellia*; ... 1841.**



Named for People
***C. japonica* 'Sarah Frost.'**
From Berleses's *Iconographie du genre*
***Camellia*; ... 1841.**



Named for People
***C. japonica* 'Walter Fredrick Campbell.'**
Plate 214 Berleses's *Iconographie du genre*
***Camellia*; ... 1841.**

Columbia. The collection is accessible to students, scholars, and the wider community. Researchers not connected with the University, or traveling from a distance, are asked to contact the department (at tcrrare@mailbox.sc.edu) before their visit to ensure that the needed items and relevant staff help are available when they arrive. Some materials in the department's care are housed offsite in remote storage and may need to be recalled a day in advance of use.

Camellia enthusiasts owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Claudia Wright Lea Phelps for collecting and maintaining such a collection of now rare and valuable books on camellia culture and history. 🌸

Camellia Quiz

The following protected were winners in their division at the ACS National Camellia Show in Pensacola, Dec. 14, 2013.

Can you name them? Answers on page 27.



#1 Best Bloom Protected (retic)



#2 Best Very Large - japonica)



#3 Best Large - japonica



#4 Best Medium - japonica



#5 Best Small - japonica



#6 Best Miniature - japonica

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 Spring Garden

By Art Landry

Spring is a busy time in the Camellia garden. Some of the late blooming varieties are still giving us some blooms and it's time to prune, spray, and fertilize smaller plants that need it. It's also the time to finish spring grafting, do air layers, and do a general cleanup of the plants, such as removing all old blooms and buds, weak limbs, etc.

Most of our members use a thick mulch of leaves, bark, or pine straw each year around established plants. Selective pruning of weak or infested limbs should be practiced by all growers. Some members have found that a pruning program on established plants can be used instead of fertilizer. Removal of about 10-20% of the branches will stimulate the plant into re-establishing the balance between roots and branches, putting out vigorous new growth to replace the pruned branches. Pruning can also be used to control the size and height of the plant so that they will remain a desirable size and shape. You will be rewarded with a healthy, vigorous plant with superior blooms.

Those plants not yet large enough to prune back extensively will benefit from a simple fertilizer program of an application now and another light feeding in summer. You can use a commercial Camellia fertilizer (or "Nursery Special" or "Growers Supreme" with time release nitrogen and containing trace elements) or make your own by mixing two parts cottonseed meal with one part of a

balanced fertilizer (like "8-8-8"). Some of our members also like to add a small amount of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to the mix (1 part to 25 parts mix) to help release trace elements locked in the soil. Use a cup or so of your mix to each plant.

Those who grow camellias in containers have their own program of fertilization involving feeding every month to replace nutrients lost with each watering. Timed release fertilizers will help reduce the work and frequency involved.

March and April are good times to spray to control scale and other pests. Malathion usually controls red spider mites and aphids, which often appear on plants at this time. Neem Oil can be used to control scale, mites and other pests at the same time. Neem oil is now the active ingredient in "Triple Action" as well as several rose sprays. Dormant Oil or "Ultrafine Oil" still work fine for scale and are non-toxic.

Dieback can be a problem all year long in our area, but the greatest exposure to the infection seems to be in the spring when the old leaves fall off or limbs are pruned or otherwise damaged. Prune away all infected limbs down below the canker or wound on the limb or trunk and treat with Captan and benomyl. Pruning paint is optional. Dry benomyl added to water-soluble pruning paint seems to work well when painted on the treated area. Sterilize your pruning tools often using fungicide or chlorine

bleach solution to keep them clean while you do the pruning.

April: Check your new grafts regularly for new growth. When the new leaves show signs of growing, cut the bottom of the cup nearly all way around, leaving a hinge on one side. Then the wire can be slipped under the flap, continue to hold the cup in place and let you observe the growth as it nears the top. (If using plastic juice bottle cloches, unscrew cap to allow new growth to harden.) When the leaves start to touch the flap, snap the flap off and discard. Let the graft grow right through the cup until the leaves are fully formed.

Then the cup can be discarded. The grafts need regular watering once the new growth starts.

Water your camellias during dry periods. Established plants are more tolerant to dry spells especially if they are well mulched. Give them a good soaking each week without rain. Newly planted camellias need careful watering during their first season until their roots become established. Fertilize sparingly the first season, soak well for each watering, and maintain a good mulch. After the first season, they will be more tolerant of dry spells.



C. japonica 'Black Magic.' Very dark glossy red, medium, semidouble to rose form double. Unusual holly-like foliage. 1992 - Nuccio's.

Camellia Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pete Galli | 2. Show Time | 3. Jay Ellis |
| 4. Elaine's Betty | 5. Tama Vino | 6. Fircone Var. |

Editor's Notes

By Kenn Campbell
kennbc@cox.net



Mysteries are fascinating things. It seems as soon as you solve one another pops up, so you are always faced with mysteries. Some you can solve - some you can't. A couple of new ones have popped up for me lately.

A couple of months ago, Ron Benko and I were weeding pots at the Baton Rouge Camellia Society work day when he happened to mention that he had noticed that the branch where the aluminum tags were tied on his camellias often died. I had noticed the same occurrence, but had never mentioned it because I just thought it was a coincidence. When I asked some other club members, they said they had never paid any attention, but would keep an eye open. Could there be a cause and what would it be? Have any of you noticed this happening?



Laminated paper tag with iron wire on dead branch of Princess Lavender.

The other mystery has to do with printing. The digital age has been a boon to printing, but occasionally computers do mysterious things. On page 13 of the last issue of the Camellian there were two black and white illustrations - a chart and a map. When I checked the proof at the print shop, everything was fine. But something strange happened in the final printing. Both graphics picked up some blue color - the map randomly and the chart solid blue. I checked the graphics file and the both had been converted to grayscale. The printer checked the file used for printing and the page was black and white and they had no idea how it picked up the blue. Here is the chart again. Lets see how it comes out this time.

Kenn Campbell - CAMELLIAS at 3310 Fairway Drive						1-8-13
Map	Name	Species	Acquired	Size	Description	Introd.
1	Caroline Beauty	Jap.	gr. 3-1-89	M-L	fl. pink, semi-dbl. w/ upright center petals	1859
2	Red Seeding	Jap.	where acquired		looks like Kammer's Supreme	never
3	Claudia Phelps - broken off Isaac 2012	Jap.	gr. 2-24-88	L	sort of Duchess of Sutherland, pink shading white edge	1948
4	Pink Pagoda - damaged Isaac 2012	Jap.	gr. 2-25-88	M-L	rose pink formal double - wavy petals	1983
5	Clark's Ruby - damaged Isaac 2012	Jap.	gr. 2-25-89	M	brilliant dk red, full to loose peony, rimbated pet	1960
6	C. M. Wilson	Jap.	slayer, 8-88	L-VL	fl. pink, sport of Elegance	1949

What is the World's largest camellia? Some people think 'bigger is better.' But how much bigger is better?

The New Zealand Camellia Bulletin, 1983, vol.XIII, No.2, p.11, N.Z.
Reg. No.192 describes Reticulata Harold Austin registered with the New Zealand Camellia Society in 1982 as follows:

“Harold Austin
Camellia Reticulata

A chance seedling of *C. reticulata* 'Crimson Robe', (Dataohong), originated by H.G. Austin, New Plymouth, New Zealand, that first flowered 1979 on a spreading, open plant of medium growth, with dark green leaves, 12 cm x 5 cm. The very large, semi-double form, measures up to 20 cm across x 8 cm deep with 25 petals and an occasional petaloid. Anthers are golden and it flowers mid-season. Its texture is firm and its colour an intense Rose Madder.”

It was also registered with ACS in 1983.

An 8 inch (20 cm) diameter camellia flower is a really **BIG** bloom. I couldn't find a picture of it. I think I have seen some about that size at some of our shows, but have never measured them. Is there a larger one in our region? Is there an official “worlds largest camellia” and if so what is it?

More about air-layering. When my wife goes to the grocery store, she usually brings home a salad for lunch. These come in clear plastic boxes about 6”x 6”x 3” and snap shut. In the spring I was doing some air layers using the Air-Propagator featured in an earlier article. It occurred to me that those salad boxes were just the right size and would be easy to install because they snap shut. So I tried a couple. I cut vee notches with scissors to fit around the stem. One I spray painted a dark color and the other I left clear. I filled each half with damp unmilled sphagnum moss and prepared the branch as for any other air-layers. The box of moss was placed around the stem and the box snapped shut. The painted one was placed on an Angel Trumpet plant and that was it. The clear one I put on Lady Laura and wrapped it with aluminum foil. Both were successful, but the camellia took longer.



*Lady Laura air-layer made
with plastic salad box.*

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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C. japonica 'Roi des Belges.' A virus variegated form of 'Lavinia Maggi Rosea' first exhibited in Brussels about 1864. The flowers are large, of different colors on the same plant, sometimes self red, sometimes red with splashes of white. From *Gravures Camélias Belges*.