

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Summer 2014

Volume 40 No. 3



Photo by Joe Holmes

C. japonica "Ville de Nantes" France 1910

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Membership Roster Edition

The Gulf Coast Camellian

Volume 40 No. 3

Summer 2014

From the Cover.....	page 2
President's Message	page 3
Biloxi Holds Judges' Symposium	page 4
From A Gardener's Journal.....	page 6
Camellia Shows in Portugal and Spain.....	page 8
A Sunday in the Country.....	page 12
Around the Region.....	page 14
Membership Roster 2014.....	page 16
GCCS Annual Meeting.....	page 24
Camellia Quiz.....	page 25
Helping Your Camellias through the Summer.....	page 26
Editor's Notes.....	page 28
Camellia Websites.....	page 29
About the Gulf Coast Camellia Society.....	page 30
GCCS Officers.....	page 31
Back Cover - Tomorrow/Tomorrow's Dawn.....	page 32

From Our Cover

This beautiful display of "Ville de Nantes" was photographed by Joe Holmes at a camellia show in Coruna, Spain, in March 2014. Notice that they still have their fimbriated petals and rabbit ears which most of the Villes in the U.S. lost some fifteen to twenty years ago. Why don't we import some new ones and graft them on our old bushes?



President's Message

Lynn Vicknair
Baton Rouge, LA

Well, the show season was great this year in spite of the weather causing everyone to have very few blooms! Only one of the shows was cancelled because of menacing weather.

I want to thank all of the clubs for inviting me to attend and judge at your shows.

I did attend every show. I learned a lot, met some new people, and got to catch up with old friends. Every club is unique and brings something special to the camellia world.

I think it is wonderful that the Coushatta

Camellia Society gives grafted plants for show prizes. Baton Rouge will be giving plants as prizes to our "local grower" winners next year. Thanks for the great idea!

Here are a few statistics from the past season: Pensacola had the most blooms (1320) and sold the most ACS memberships (12).

Baton Rouge had the most exhibitors (93) and Mobile had the most visitors (over 1000). If you were like me and went to every show you saw over 7000 blooms. I know next year will be even better.

Mark your calendar for the GCCS conference. It will be held

on Friday, October 17th and Saturday, October 18th in Covington, LA. We were able to book the weekend dates in hopes that more members will be able to attend. Meg and Hunter Charbonnet are working on all of the details. There will be

more information mailed to you later.

Please remember to pay your dues and report any address changes to Mike Ruth.

Please send your club news to Kenn.



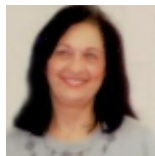
*C. japonica "Katheryn Funari" 1975 A. Funari,
Santa Clara, CA*



Biloxi Holds Judges' Symposium

By Lisa Miller

Photos by Susan Moran



L. to r. Mary Mizell, Bob Stroud, Jim Campbell, Barbara Moon (seated in back), Lisa Miller and Father Dennis Carver greeting everyone.



Our five Novice Judges: Will Mangham, Dr. Carl Moran, Maria Thibodeaux, Mary Mizell (in background), and Dr. Chel Sanders.



*Father Dennis is presented with a gift of *C. japonica* 'R. L. Wheeler.'*



A Novice Judges' School and Re-accreditation Symposium was held in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the Bingo Hall of the Nativity B.V.M Cathedral on 22 February 2014. Five novice judges and twenty-three judges seeking re-accreditation participated in this event.

Father Dennis Carver welcomed all in attendance and was elated that the school and symposium were being held at Nativity. He told of his personal experience with his dad purchasing a number of acres of property and planting camellias even before building a house. He seems to have developed "a sort of a green thumb" after years of taking care of the camellias and grounds.

Father Dennis' new camellia friends surprised him with a gift of an *R. L. Wheeler* to plant in his personal garden. Jim Campbell presented the graft along with a card.

Speakers for the event were Jim Campbell, Paul Huerkamp, James Smelley, and Bob Stroud. A huge “Thank You” to these special people for giving of their time that made the school a success.

Numerous blooms were brought to help with the Novice Judges’ School for identification and placement purposes. Many participants noted that the school had as many blooms as some of the shows did this season because of the unusual wintry weather. Another big “Thank You” to all who brought the beautiful blooms.

Ken Manis won a two-year old graft of *Cile Mitchell* donated by Len Moran as a door prize.

A very special “Thank You” goes out to Mr. Lloyd and Mrs. Barbara Moon for preparing the building for the school/symposium.

This was the second Novice Judges’ School and Re-accreditation Symposium organized by Susan Moran whose hard work and efforts are greatly appreciated.



One of five tables covered with blooms for the judges to practice on.



Mrs. Barbara Moon and Father Dennis Carver with Judy Kerr, talking camellias with our guests. Paul Huerkamp and Nick Piazza in the background.



Ken Manis won the door prize, an N. R Hybrid ‘Cile Mitchell’ donated by Len Moran.



Judy Kerr, Lynn and Homer Richardson listen to the speakers.

From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson
Brookhaven, Mississippi



Welcome Spring!!! At last it feels like spring. And we did have flowers for Easter, too. We had a lovely camellia show of our own, right here in our yard. March and April brought out lots and lots of fabulous blooms. We had some blooms til the end of the first week of May. Don't remember that happening before. I think all of the camellia people in the South were rewarded for being patient(sort of) during that truly horrible winter. I have also decided that anyone who speaks to me about "climate change" or "global warming" may get shot.

We will get to go out in the yard and see who has succumbed to the cold and/or deer. So far there has been only one, but I haven't really checked everywhere. This fall I hope to deter the deer by planting three patches of rye grass.

It may be a vain hope, but perhaps they will leave the camellias alone. They just boldly came up in full daylight and munched away. They probably had a difficult winter, too, but that does not arouse any sympathy in my heart. It arouses a taste for venison sausage. It has been my observation over the years that if Easter is late, we have a late spring. That connection escapes me entirely, but I have noticed it. We



Seen at a Camellia Stroll at Hammond, this early NR hybrid, "Monticello" was planted at the Hammond Research Station by Hody Wilson in the late 1950s. It is a seedling of the hybrid "Sylvia May" developed by Dave Feathers of Lafayette, CA and registered in 1957.

were blessed with an abundance of rain in April, too. Maybe that will help the plants get a good start for the summer. Usually in April we have several days of rain, then a week or so of mini-drought, then rain again and then dry.

Back to the camellias, they did put on a great show when they bloomed. Even the very late bloomers like *Kura Tsubaki* had a lot of blooms. That lovely Chinese

seedling of Vernon Howell's had more flowers than ever. Wish he would register it. The early bloomers who got clobbered with frost had a lovely second flush of blooms. The show was very rewarding after that horrid winter when there were either brown blooms or no blooms.

We did miss two events we had looked forward to because of the weather. John Grimm's nursery tour and the Camellia Stroll at Hammond. For both events we had several inches of rain on the days of the events and were forced to stay home. Tornado warnings do sort of take the fun out of things, too. We do hope to do these next year.

We were very privileged to attend a wonderful luncheon at Hemingbough, the gardens and estate of Arlin Dease. Our Louisiana friends were kind enough to invite us and it was a very special day. Later, we were supposed to go to Mr. Imahara's nursery and gardens. Unfortunately, we got lost since we forgot to program the GPS.

The Richardsons are known for being able to get lost in a five gallon bucket! That was a real



Walter Imahara in front of a Japanese cherry planted by his father.

disappointment, our house in Baton Rouge in the seventies had been landscaped by Mr. Imahara's father and for ten years was wonderful to look at and very easy to maintain. I am so hoping to visit some other time. They had a lovely business on Florida Boulevard and it was a

favorite of mine. I also learned for the first time that their family had been interned during World War Two. That was a shameful time. I can understand why it was done but still think it was not necessary.

In conclusion, I have not burned my winter clothes yet, but it was a near thing! It is so nice that winter is over. The temperature today was 90 degrees for the first time this year. It will turn cooler by mid week but that is doable. Hope to see all of y'all in the fall.



Camellia Shows in Portugal and Spain

By Joe Holmes, St. Francisville, LA.



In March 2014, my wife, Laura, and I had the opportunity to attend the 2014 International Camellia Society's (ICS) Congress along with the Pre Congress and Post Congress activities. These were held in northern Portugal, centered on the city of Porto, and surrounding countryside then Pontevedra and Santiago de Compostela, Spain and surrounding cities and countryside.

This area, which ranges from approximately 41 to 43.5 degrees north latitude (think northern California southern Oregon), borders the north Atlantic Ocean and must have one of the premiere climates for camellia cultivation in the world. From my observations, just about everything grew there. In addition to camellias, there were plants from all over the world including eucalyptus, magnolias, cryptomeria, citrus, bananas, rhododendrons, palms, and many other species.

We saw camellias, castles, cathedrals. Visited public and private gardens with thousands of camellia plants, some purported to be over 400 years old. We visited city halls where we (the Congress attendees) were welcomed by the mayors and were treated to receptions of delicious local foods and wines. We saw camellia gardens

where the plants were topiary marvels, trained into hedges, mazes, pyramids, arches, and other improbable shapes. We took walking tours of the medieval centers of several cities, were treated to concerts, special camellia-inspired art shows, camellia nurseries, and three local camellia shows.

The camellia shows were so very different from our own shows here in the southeast. The number of blooms exhibited, the varieties, presentation methods, attendance by the local population, and peripheral activities all combined to make the shows fascinating.

The first show was the 19th Camellia Show of Porto, Portugal, held in the Porto Town Hall. Not knowing that this would be so different, I was astounded to be in a crowd of local citizens awaiting the opening of the show (Fig. 1) while the mayor of Porto welcomed the ICS members and introduced Ms. Pat Short, the ICS President. Once the welcome was over, we begin to circulate around the tables of camellia displays (Fig. 2 - 5). The camellias were grouped by cultivar with as few as three blooms up to 100+ in a display (Fig. 5 - 7). The tables were covered with sod and the camellias placed on the sod. I was not able to determine which table or



Typical Displays at the
Camellia Show of Porto,
Portugal



C. japonica 'Royal Velvet' - Nuccio's 1987



C. japonica 'Kuro- Tsubaki' - Japan 1896

display was the winner. Glad I wasn't judging! This show was on March 8th.

The following Saturday, March 15th, we were taken from the Congress site of Pontevedra, Spain, to Vigo, Spain, a city on the coast about 20 miles distant. Vigo was this host city for the 50th International Camellia Show held in this Spanish province. The show was held in the civic center that provided a larger space for the profuse flower exhibits. Again, the locals were waiting for the opening of the show, which was accompanied by a musical troupe of bagpipers, drummers, and a tambourine player in traditional Galicia dress (Fig. 8). Once we were inside the exhibit hall, there were tables filled with flowers (Fig. 9 - 10). In addition to the tables covered with groups of like cultivars, there were themed displays (Fig. 11 and 12) and a 50th Anniversary Camellia Cake which included, among others, the cultivar "Ciudad de Vigo." (Fig. 13). While viewing the thousands of



A Galician bagpipe band entertains visitors at show.



The civic center of Vigo, Spain, was the site of the 50th Anniversary International Camellia Show.





50th International Camellia Show in Vigo, Spain.



*Folk Dancers perform at the
50th International Camellia Show*

*A beautiful display of c.
japonica 'Ville de
Nantes.' Note that these
Spanish flowers still have
their rabbit ears and
fimbriations which we
now seem to be lacking.*



flowers on display we were entertained by more musicians playing bagpipes, drums, and tambourines while dancers in traditional costumes performed folk dances (Fig. 14). As might be expected, this was the most elaborate camellia show in the area.

The final camellia show we visited was on March 21st in the city of A Coruna, Spain, held in a shopping mall. Again, there was a stunning display of flowers exhibited on long tables. Also, there was an impressive bouquet of "Ville de Nantes" (Fig. 15) and other blooms.

So, these camellia shows were very different from ours and although I really couldn't understand the judging, that really didn't matter. These shows provided chances to see thousands of blooms in a spectacular corner of the camellia growing world.



A Sunday in the Country

by

Kay Clark, Baton Rouge, LA

The Baton Rouge Camellia Society held its last formal meeting of the year Sunday, March 30, 2014. After the coldest of winters that was so harsh on camellias, it was a treat to spend a Sunday in the country. The social was held at Hemingbough, an events center and spiritual retreat near St. Francisville, owned by club member, Arlin Dease. Arlin hosted a lovely lunch which included baked chicken, roast pork, his special tomato-and-squash dish, and apple pie.

Gerald Phares, BRCS president, presented Arlin a “Wynne Rayner” hybrid along with sincere thanks for his hospitality. Vice-president,

won the drawing - a “Royal Velvet” in full bloom - or was it?

After wandering the delightful grounds of Hemingbough with its colorful peacocks and spring blossoms, we toured Imahara’s Botanical Garden on Mahoney Road in St. Francisville. The garden is owned by club members Walter and Sumi Imahara. Retired from the nursery business, they now work full time developing and maintaining this gorgeous fifty-four acre garden in a wilderness near the Mississippi River.

The newest addition to the garden - The Family Gallery, a museum filled with memorabilia - tells the Imahara family history from California through internment during World War II, and finally to Louisiana where their gardening skills have touched so many people.

Touring the garden with Walter, we saw nine reflecting pools, groupings of azaleas, camellias, magnolias, topiaries, hollies, and a miniature Mt. Fuji. Anyone who visits will certainly be impressed with what the Imaharas are achieving there.

Our last stop was at the elegant Afton Villa Gardens located north of St. Francisville. The entrance is a showcase of azaleas of every color under the canopy of two hundred fifty moss-draped live oak trees – so southern! The garden proper is



C. non-retic. Hybrid ‘Wynne Rayner’ - B. J. Rayner, Stratford, N.Z. 1967.

Roger Roy, introduced club officers for the coming year and members who hold regional, national, and international offices. John Grimm



Baton Rouge Camellia Society members enjoyed the azaleas at Hemingbough

developed around the ruins of the old villa that burned in 1963.

In spring, the grounds are dressed in drifts of tulips, daffodils, irises, and salvias. A classic portiere garden and a large camellia collection are also on the grounds. The approximately seventy-five camellias were planted by Walter Imahara's late father, James Imahara.

John Grimm was along to help identify some of these very old camellias.

With thanks to all who provided us with information, hospitality, and inspiration, we headed home to reflect on the day and think ahead to the next camellia season.



Gerald and Sharen Phares admire a cherry tree planted by James Imahara at Afton Villa Gardens



Camellia Club of Mobile

The winners of the photo contest display their winning entries. l. to r. Carolyn Oyler best photo of a camellia in the landscape, Norma Savage best photo of a camellia bloom, Lee Patrick best photo of a camellia in a floral arrangement, Larry Heard best photo of a camellia with a person.



North Shore Camellia Society

*A winner at the North Shore show was *C. japonica* "Takanini" is a small to medium deep purplish red registered in 1989 by Haydon of New Zealand.*



Mississippi

The American Camellia Society has awarded its highest award for a sasanqua, the Ralph Peer Sasanqua Cup, to Glenn Read of the Glenn Read Camellia Nursery, Lucedale, MS for his 2012 introduction, "Strawberry Limeade."

AROUND



**C. sasanqua* "Strawberry Limeade" strawberry pink with petals tipped lime green. 2012, Glenn Read, Lucedale, MS*



Camellia Club of Mobile

Because this year's record cold delayed many of the camellia blooms, the Camellia Club of Mobile featured a camellia display of member camellia blossoms at the March meeting. Members with winning blooms shown above are: left photo to right photo--Laura Barnard, Vickie and Al Baugh, Carolyn and Don Oyler.



Coushatta Camellia Society

The plant sale tent at the annual show.

THE REGION

The Pensacola Camellia Club

The camellia truck has breathed it's last. Cost to repair was just too much and with agreement of Ole Olsen and the board, the truck was sold to a needy mechanic who promised to give it a good home. The club owes a great debt of thanks to Ole who originally purchased the truck for the club's use. Final totals: we owned it for 75 months, drove it for 12,996 miles, carried 1800 camellia plants and one 2000 lb. pallet of camellia fertilizer. - Hooton

A fund raiser is currently underway to raise funds to purchase a replacement panel truck or van.



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Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual Meeting

October 17 and 18, 2014

Covington, Louisiana



Clarion Inn and Suites will be the host hotel for the Annual Meeting. Located on Highway 190 at I-12 in Covington, Louisiana.

We are so excited that the GCCS conference this year will be in Covington, LA, for the first time.

As of now our educational program consists of Larry Bates from Forest Hill, LA. He is the owner of Larry Bates Nursery and he will give us insight on his unique way of grafting thousands of camellias each year.

Mr. Park from Air Propagation will discuss his very successful method of air layering.

Mark Crawford always has something new and interesting to teach us. Dr. David Creech, Professor from Steven F. Austin State University and director of SFA Mast Arboretum will speak one night.

The other night we will be entertained by Sandra Patrick, a landscape horticulturist, writer, and artist.

We will have our new and improved "live auction" as well as our "silent auction" so start thinking of what you can contribute to each of them. We will have dinner and one auction on Friday night and the silent auction and banquet will be on Saturday night.

See you there - Lynn Vicknair

Camellia Quiz

Following are some non-reticulata hybrids that are popular in our region. Can you name them? Answers on page 28.

Photos by Randolph Maphis



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



Helping Your Camellias through the Summer

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA

The summer months in the deep south can be daunting to gardeners with the heat and humidity to discourage garden activities. Don't let these conditions keep you from doing a few things with your camellia plants, which will reward you with their beautiful blooms in fall and winter. Our camellia plants view this period as hot and humid with dry spells during the time they are putting on new growth, developing their buds for blooming in the winter months and expanding their root systems to balance the new leaf growth. We can help them get through this period with grace if we follow a few essential cultural practices.

Complete your major pruning in the spring so the new growth will have time to develop. Prune weak or unsightly limbs at any time to maintain healthy foliage and desired shape to the bush. As the new growth matures, selectively prune branches to get the shape you want or maintain the size of the plant – vertically as well as laterally.

Add new mulch on top of your old mulch (if not already done) to maintain several inches of organic mulch material, which will break down over time (chopped leaves, pine bark mulch, pine straw, etc.) The mulch is essential during the summer months to help maintain

moisture, keep the soil cooler, and retard the growth of weeds. The decaying (older) mulch will produce essential nutrients for the plant including trace elements so essential to good growth and flowering. After several years of adding mulch, you can substantially reduce your fertilizer since the plant will get a lot of the nutrients it needs from the decaying mulch.

Watering is the key to good healthy growth in spring and summer, coupled with a good mulching. Fertilizing during the summer of plants in the ground is generally not necessary and could promote excessive new growth in late summer. Container grown plants should be fertilized lightly each month until about September with a slow release formula containing trace elements (such as “Nursery Special”, “Growers Supreme”, “Osmocote Plus”, etc. or equivalent) since some of the nutrients are washed out of the container every time it is watered. When you water, use a good slow soaking of the root system so that the water can be absorbed by the soil. Wait until the soil dries before watering again. Avoid a short watering with a hand held hose since most of the water will roll away without being absorbed by the soil.

If you've kept your camellias mulched and watered they should produce new growth of 2 or more inches in length and by June you will notice a difference in the buds at the end of these new stems. The pointed bud is the growth bud for next year's new growth. The rounded buds on the side of the growth bud are the flower buds for the coming fall and winter bloom season. When the flower buds are easily identified (usually around June and July for most varieties) then you can begin disbudding your established plants. Removing the extra bloom buds from the plant will reward you in several ways.

Established camellias usually set about 3 times more flower buds than the plant will support opening into flowers. (Of course a small plant with few buds is the exception.) If the extra buds are left on the plant, many will not open at all and many will try to open late in the season producing small or partially opened blooms. Removing these extra buds will let the plant put its energy into the remaining buds you left on the plant. You will get larger flowers and most of them will open for you.

Here is how to disbud an established camellia plant. Start by removing (they will snap off easily when bent away from the growth bud) all multiple buds – leave only one flower bud on each stem. Once you've done this, you can go back and remove every other bud you left on the plant. The result will be

about 1/3 of the original buds left on the plant to bloom in the winter. You'll be surprised at the difference and happy with the resulting bigger and better blooms.

We often get this question after each blooming season is over: "My camellia had a lot of buds but hardly any of them bloomed. Why?" Part of the answer is the excess number of buds that established camellia plants usually produce and disbudding in the summer as described above often will solve the problem. There are other cases involving "late season" blooming varieties which are not yet ready to bloom and our spring weather comes on full blast with warm weather and rain. The plant then shifts from "bloom mode" to "growth mode" and the buds remain unopened. As a general rule, late blooming varieties do not give us a satisfactory blooming season in southern states because of these factors. This condition seems to be specific to certain varieties which are genetically programmed to bloom later.

With your mulching done and watering when needed and your disbudding ongoing, relax and enjoy the greenery through the summer. Anticipate the buds opening into beautiful blooms when the cooler weather comes.



Editor's Notes

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA
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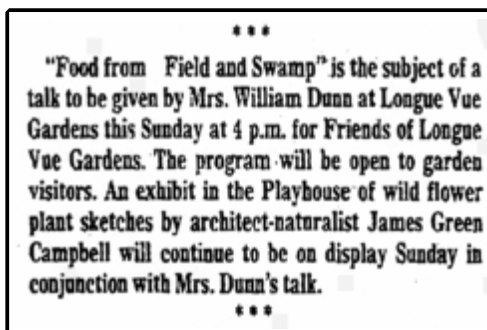


Another camellia season has come and gone. While the unusually severe winter weather played havoc with the blooms, there was a strong finish to make us want to keep growing them. The lovely flower seems to overcome all attempts by nature to suppress it. I remember a lot of people were very discouraged when petal blight first appeared and were ready to give up. But we learned to live with it and just enjoy the blooms like they were daylilies until some day when the problem is solved. Long live the camellia.

Southeastern Camellia Society President Gene Phillips announced that the SCS has had to stop all publications as well as take down their Camellia Web Express site, due to lack of funding. We are very sorry that the very useful SCS publications and beautiful website will no longer be available.

Grafting by moon phases - update. In the Spring 2014 issue we showed the percentage of takes as related to the phases of the moon. They were: New Moon = 48% 1st Qtr. = 85% Full Moon = 39% Last Qtr. = 73% So this year I did most of my grafting on the 1st or last quarter of the moon, with a few exceptions. The results this year were similar: New Moon - none made 1st Qtr - 7 of 7 = 100% Full Moon - 1 of 3 = 33% Last Qtr - 10 of 12 = 83%. So 1st and last quarter it is from now on.

While searching the Web for an obituary of my great-grandfather Dr. James Green Campbell, I found this news item on page 97 of the Sunday, February 12, 1978 *Times-Picayune* (New Orleans) about our own Jim Campbell. I have seen some of these paintings and he is quite an accomplished artist.



Camellia Quiz Answers

1. Betty Ridley Var.
2. Raspberry Flambe Var.
3. Dragon Fireball
4. Sweet Jane
5. Freedom Bell
6. Tom Perkins

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.homerrichardson.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.

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***

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Typical Display at a camellia show in Spain