

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Autumn 2014

Volume 40 No. 4



Largest Camellia Japonica in Portugal

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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From the Cover

This picture of the largest *Camellia japonica* in Portugal was taken by Joe Holmes while attending the ICS annual meeting in 2013. The plant is c. *japonica* "Paeoniiflora Rosea" which is a synonym for 'Paeoniiflora.'

"Paeoniiflora (c. *japonica*), Aiton 1812. Peony flowered, bright rose marked with darker colored veins. It is a sport of 'Pampone' and the size, form and arrangement of the petals are in every way similar to 'Pampone.' It is believed to have been imported by Captain Welbank for Charles Hampden Turner of Rooksnesy, Surry about 1810. It was introduced into Kew Gardens about 1812." (Chandler 1831)





President's Message

*Lynn Vicknair
Baton Rouge, LA*

It is hard to believe I have been your GCCS president for two years! The time has passed so quickly. I have learned so many new things and enjoyed every minute of my tenure as your President (well, just about every minute!) Moving forward, I still see the lack of new membership as our main concern. As the show season starts up this fall, I encourage you to make plans to take some of your friends or local club members to a camellia show in another town and talk to them about becoming judges. Tell your local club members about the GCCS conference in October.

There are registration forms for our conference at our website, gulfcoastcamellias.org. Homer has the form set up so it can be downloaded, filled out and mailed to treasurer, Mike Ruth. Homer has also included the hotel information and the agenda on the website.

Back by many popular requests this year the conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 17th and 18th, in Covington, Louisiana. All of the events will take place at one

location, the Clarion Hotel, right off of I-12.



Clarion Inn and Suites will be the host hotel for the Annual Meeting.

Jim, Hunter and Meg have set up a very interesting educational program. These sessions will be held Saturday afternoon with the following speakers:

Larry Bates from Forest Hill, Louisiana, will discuss growing grafted camellias in quantities for wholesale, retail, and mail order sales. You can find him online at larrybatesnursery.blogspot.com.

J. D. Thomerson will talk about hybridizing and genealogy.

Hong Park from Huntsville, Alabama, will demonstrate his air propagator. You can find more information at airpropagator.com.

Mark Crawford, who is always full of great information, will talk

on the topic of grafting camellias in raised beds.

Our Friday night speaker will be Mrs. Sandra Patrick who will give us a “walk through Monet’s garden.”

The banquet speaker on Saturday night will be Dr. David Creech from Steven F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Our raffle item this year is a beautiful framed camellia needlepoint donated by Hunter and Meg Charbonnet. It is double matted and has several types of



needlepoint stitches in colors of pinks, burgundy, and greens. Even though you received 3 raffle tickets in your mail-out, you will have the opportunity to buy more chances throughout the conference. I know you will want a better chance to win this beautiful piece once you see it!

Florence Crowder will once again be in charge of the silent auction. Please let her know

(Florence.crowder@cox.net) what you are donating so she can have the display area set up. The silent auction will close before the banquet Saturday night.

Because the live auction has become so popular and we have had so many auction items in the past, this year we will have two auctions! These live auctions will include only plants and will be held Friday night and again on Saturday morning. If you are bringing plants for the auction, please find Jim Campbell at the hotel. If you are donating plants, please send me a list of what you are bringing so that I can compile a list and send it to all the registered attendees.

Sunday morning there will be optional tours to John Grimm’s “Camellia Haven,” and Jim Campbell’s “River Camellias.”

I look forward to seeing everyone in October. I think we will have a fantastic time. Once again, thank you for allowing me to be your president for the last two years and thank you to the rest of the team: Dick and Bette Hooton, Jim Dwyer, Carol Comber, Dr. Mike Ruth, Kenn Campbell, Jim Campbell, Homer Richardson, Al and Vickie Baugh, and everyone else who helped me through the last two years!



Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual Meeting

October 17 and 18, 2014
Covington, Louisiana

October 17th, Friday

- 1:00-4:00 **Registration** at the Clarion Lobby Area
Hospitality Suite- room number and hours to be posted
2:00 **Board Meeting**- Hospitality Suite
5:00 **Reception**-Clarion Ballroom
6:00 **Dinner, Speaker, and Plant Auction**- Clarion Ballroom

October 18th, Saturday

6:00-10:30 Breakfast

- 8:00-8:45 **Registration** at the Clarion Lobby Area
8:45 **Business Meeting** -Clarion Ballroom
9:15 **Orange Juice, Mimosa, and Bloody Mary Break**
10:00 **Auction** – Clarion Ballroom
12:00 **Lunch**
Educational Sessions- Clarion Ballroom
1:15 **Larry Bates**-Grafting in quantities
1:45 **J.D. Thomerson**- Hybridizing and Genealogy
3:00 **Hong Park** – Air Propagator
3:30 **Mark Crawford**
5:00 **President's Reception**- Clarion Ballroom
6:00 **Banquet** -Clarion Ballroom- Speaker Dr. David Creech,
Professor at Steven F. Austin

The **Annual Raffle** winning ticket will be announced at the Banquet on Saturday night. This year's raffle item is a beautiful framed needlepoint camellia provided by Meg Charbonnet.

Silent Auction items viewing and bidding will in the Clarion Ballroom. The Silent Auction will be closed at 5:30 Saturday night and the winning items need to be claimed and paid for at that time.

Registration Forms may be found at our website, gulfcoastcamellias.org.

Camellia Gardens in Porto and Northern Portugal

By Joe and Laura Holmes, St. Francisville, LA.



Although most widely known as the center of port wine production, Porto calls itself the “City of Camellias.” Its tourist map lists twenty-nine locations in the city to view camellia collections. The International Camellia Society (ICS) pre-congress tour took the group of attendees to at least five sites in Porto and several others in adjacent cities and other locations in northern Portugal. Each site had some distinctive camellia-related attractions.

The Botanic Garden of Porto has a large collection of camellias of Portuguese origin and specimen plants of many other species planted in the gardens at the former monastery site, but the most distinctive features are the three-meter high hedges of camellias. These hedges enclose intricately planted rose and boxwood gardens and stretch for a distance of more than 500 meters (1640 feet)!



Camellia hedges surrounding boxwood plantings at Botanic Garden of Porto. The hedges are composed of many different cultivars including the purple ‘Angelina Vieira,’ a camellia from Porto registered in 1975.

At Casa Tait, a city garden overlooking the Douro River, there was a huge C. r. ‘Captain Rawes’ covered with blooms. Numerous other cultivars were planted in this garden.

The Quinta de Villar d’Allen, an estate owned by the Allen family since 1839, had formal as well as woodland gardens. Of special interest were the many camellias originated by the Allen family and other exotic plants. As if the spectacular display of camellias was not enough, the Allens also hosted the ICS group for lunch and Allen cellar port tastings.



Villar d’Allen gate and manor house.



ICS Luncheon at Villar d’Allen



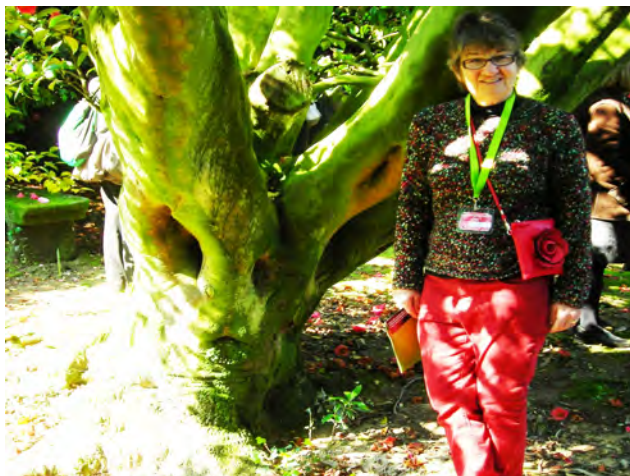
C. japonica ‘Joao Tomas Allen,’ a recently introduced cultivar from Villar d’Allen.

Casa de Campo Bello, on the south bank of the Douro River, overlooks and provides great views of Porto on the north bank. This farm dates to the end of the 14th century and contains what is considered to be the oldest C. japonica specimen in Europe, said to have been brought from Japan in the 16th century. This casa



Overlook of Porto

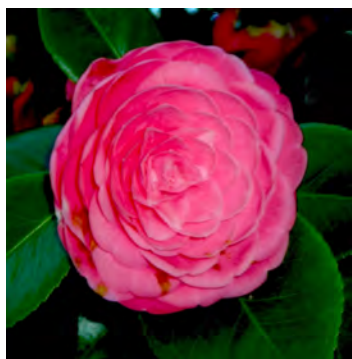
also featured a clipped hedge of camellias with niches carved out to display statuary.



Laura with oldest japonica in Europe



At the Quinta De Santo Inacio De Fiaes in the suburb of Avintes, which has belonged to the van Zeller family since 1780, Joana Andresen Guedes, the current ICS director for Portugal and one of the estate owners, hosted the ICS group. This 19th century garden has the largest collection of old Portuguese cultivars and the first camellias imported to Porto from nurseries in Europe.



Acteon (Fiaes) Porto 1865



Dom Pedro V Porto 1872

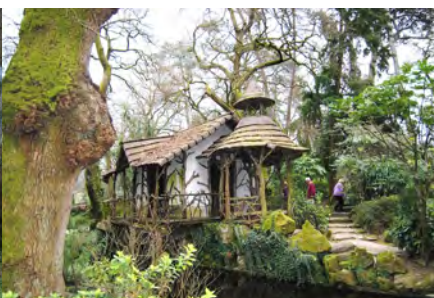
Farther afield, Casa do Campo in the village of Celorico de Basto featured the most amazing camellia topiary. This garden has continued the 19th century practice of sculpting camellia trees. The 17th century property has always belonged to the Meireles family. There were camellia mushrooms, columns, and arches with fountains and granite lawn ornaments. **Another extensive garden at Quinta Da Aveleda** in the village of Penafiel is noted for its camellia collection, the garden follies,



Camellia mushrooms, cylinders, and pyramids at Casa do Campo.



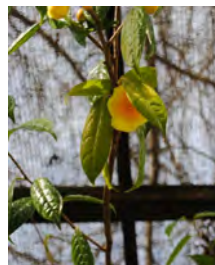
Entry walk to Quinta da Aveleda



Garden follie at Aveleda;

exotic trees, Verde wine production and what must be the largest camellia tree in Portugal (see cover)

Casa do Casal in the village of Santo Tirso (my personal favorite) boasted an unforgettable camellia collection developed by the late Jose Gil, founder and first director of the ICS Portugal. His daughter Clara Gil de Seabra welcomed and guided the ICS group. The long entry walk from the road to the gate is lined with oaks and camellias flanked by vineyards growing Verde grapes. The entry gate admitted the group to a formal garden with central fountain and old camellia trees. A breezeway in the main structure provided an



C. chrysantha



Entry walk to Casa do Casal



Entry gate



Entry courtyard fountain



*Garden path flanked by camellia and
rhododendrons*



*C. reticulata 'Arcadia' U.S. 1979 Piet at
Casa do Casal.*



*C. japonica 'White Nun' U.S.
1959 McCaskill at Casa do Casal*

entry to a much larger yard with camellias and walkways into the fields planted with over 5000 camellia species/cultivars. The yellow-flowered *C. chrysantha* was growing in a shade structure near the house.

Northern Portugal, and particularly Porto, is a destination that any gardener would enjoy; for camellia enthusiasts, it belongs on the bucket list.



From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson
Brookhaven, Mississippi



Show Time Again!

All right, everyone, it is now time to get ready for the "debutante" season, that is showing off our offspring. Too, we have the Gulf Coast Camellia Society Conference in October. The Conference will be held in Covington, La. on Oct. 17th and 18th.

These conferences are always so much fun. They are also very informative. We have sessions on different and new techniques for grafting, pruning and planting. Then of course we have the fun part, seeing old friends and making new ones. Since I have a black belt in shopping, the auctions are my very favorite events. There is always a list of plants that need to be replaced, a list of new varieties or species I need or want and one or two that simply inspire lust!

This summer we have not lost quite as many plants as in the past. We have had more rain and have so far escaped the mini-droughts between rains. On the other hand we did lose some plants to too much moisture. There was a water pipe under them that developed pinhole leaks. By the time we discovered this, the plants were dead. The pipe was fixed and we found out where NOT to plant in that part of the yard.

Also at this time of year we need

to brush up on our judging skills, reread the rules and get ready to get "familiar" with the new varieties as we can. I'm sorry, that bad pun was just irresistible.

This year we managed to harvest seeds from plants before the squirrels. Some of the varieties had not produced seed for us before. There are also some seedlings that we will dig up and move later. No matter what comes up from the seeds and what the seedlings look like, at least in a year or two we should have grafting stock.

Hope and optimism always are in the gardener's heart, otherwise we would just buy flowers and not try to grow our own. Even after we count up the dead bushes that have succumbed to drought, deer or disease, we keep on. Maybe we will try a new variety, flower form or new species. But we just can't resist. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "I am an old man but a young gardener." Several years ago, we had a visitor from Jackson. He was a 92 year old camellia fancier who wanted some scions. We gave him the scions, of course. He has since passed away, but I am perfectly willing to bet that his grafts took and are still going strong. That is my role model as a gardener. See you this season.



Pruning Primer: A Quick Version

by Brenda Litchfield, Mobile, AL

I spent today pruning my camellias and I took a lot of photos. I thought this might help if you are planning to prune this year. The best time to do major pruning is while the plant is dormant - after blooming or at the end of the blooming season.

Shaping and Creating Air Flow

You can do this at any time of the year because you are simply shaping and getting rid of unwanted branches. It is important that there is air flow through your plant so you do not get any unwanted pests or scale. The white fuzzy stuff you see is a result of not enough air flow.



Fig. 1 Before – branches to the ground.



Fig. 2 After – branches trimmed up leaving single trunk.



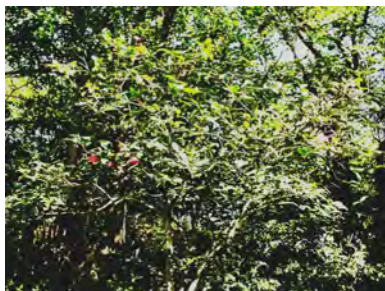
When shaping and creating air flow, cut out the small branches that come from the main trunk. These are just a few leaves and usually do not flower. Even if they do flower, they are inside the plant and the blooms are hard to see. See arrows for what should be cut.



Removing these small branches will do a lot to increase air flow in your plants. Even your small plants will have errant branches with just a few leaves that will not develop into major branches. Best to cut them off.

Hard Pruning: Tough Love – Sometimes you just have to DO IT!

I know it is hard to hack back a favorite plant but it is really best for the plant. Old plants have very few growth buds at the end of the stems. Each year there will be fewer and fewer blooms.



Betty Sheffield Var that is old with few leaves at the end of branches. Plant is about 15 feet tall. Needs to be cut to about three feet tall.

This one was cut back totally. NO leaves left on it at all. If there are leaves left on the plant it does not come back as full. By next year this will be FULL of leaves. It will take another year for it to bloom again but you will have healthy leaves and a beautiful plant.



'White by the Gate'

*Before
8 feet tall*

*After
4 feet tall*



'Alba Plen'a cut one year earlier to about 4 feet. Look at all the growth! I will have to thin it out by half. The leaves on the bottom are from another volunteer plant that I did not want to cut.



What NOT to Do When Doing Serious Pruning

Do not cut too high. My first two attempts at major surgery were not good. I cut the plant off about 5 feet high. A year later the plant exploded. All the growth was too high, and I couldn't even reach the blooms. The plant is now about 10 feet tall.

Also, DO NOT make your cuts flat. Water will eventually pool up in the cavity as it shrinks and the plant will die.



Do not cut too high as the new growth will be out of reach.



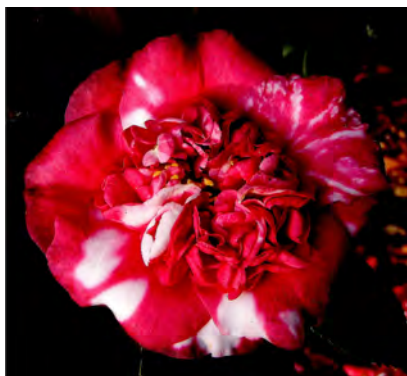
Do not make flat top cuts. I re-cut this and another one and made the cuts at an angle. They are doing fine now.



This is more like it! I cut it down to about 3 feet. I can reach all the blooms and it's a nice plant. I still need to thin it by half. You can see how the plant comes back with beautiful leaves and SO many of them.

I hope this helps if you are thinking about pruning or shaping. Cut back **hard** and low if you have a plant that is straggly or not in good shape. I know it's tough, but as you can see from my photos, the result is simply amazing. You will have incredibly full growth and a beautiful plant that will bloom with renewed life. My best advice is Just Do It!



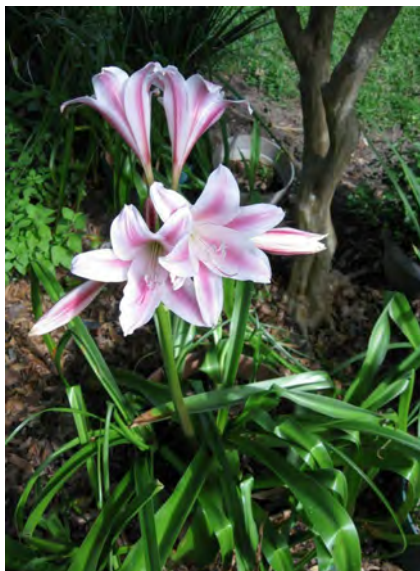


*The original *C. japonica* "Governor Mouton" was moved by E. A. McIlhenny to Avery Island in 1929 from the home of Governor Mouton near Lafayette, Louisiana.*



Joe Holmes, Florence Crowder and Jim Campbell standing in front of the original Gov. Mouton plant at Avery Island.

AROUND THE



Norman Vickers of Pensacola, FL fills in the camellia off season with his collection of beautiful crinum. The "Pensacola Home & Garden" magazine featured this picture of Norman's crinum on the July cover with a story inside.

(L. To r.) Alan and Linda McMillan with Christi Hankins at PCC picnic.



Pensacola Camellia Club Pres. Paul Bruno and Alan Mc and Linda McMillan in Star Lake section of west Pensacola and side-dishes were contributed by the attendees. What a





Members of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society found a shady spot to stick cuttings into flats of perlite to place in the mist house. The misting beds now contain about cuttings of japonicas and sasanquas.

REGION



C. japonica 'Kay Berridge' won the W.P Gilley Memorial award at Southeast Alabama 2014 show in Dothan, Alabama

*Best in Show
Unprotected
C. reticulata 'Pat
Pinkerton' exhibited
by Chuck and Bev.
Ritter at the Middle
Georgia Camellia
Show at Massee
Lane Gardens.*



Millan (left) welcome attendees to the annual picnic at the home of Alan a. Over fifty attendees enjoyed the lovely setting. Entrée was fried chicken great way to start the fall season!



*An egg size seed pod on
'Royal Velvet' made a
pretty summer ornament in
the garden of Kenn
Campbell in Baton Rouge.*

ACS Convention and National Camellia Show

Hosted by the Tallahassee Camellia Society
January 28 - 31, 2015

You are invited to visit Tallahassee, Florida's Capital City, for the 2015 ACS Convention and Show hosted by the Tallahassee Camellia Society. Other neighbor societies will be assisting. Hold the dates of January 28-31 and plan now to attend. The host hotel is Staybridge Suites.

Plans are well underway for a memorable convention with special tours to The Hulyn Smith dedication and the Betty Sheffield memorial gardens. You will get to visit member's greenhouse gardens for guided tours. There are other public gardens that you may visit on your own as well as many other points of interest to visitors.

The keynote speaker is the notable John Wang from San Francisco, California. He will share with us his vast knowledge of camellia hybridization. He has recently developed Seng Jie and Miao Jie, lighter colored retic and non-retic hybrids, as well as many fragrant hybrids. Other speakers will enlighten and entertain you. There will be a plant auction of rare and excellent varieties.

A complete listing of the events and times and a registration form will be in the September issue of the ACS Journal. Bring blooms to exhibit in the show on Saturday! The conclusion of the convention will be the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. Plan now to enjoy southern hospitality at its best, visit with old friends and make new ones as you learn more about camellias. Contact chairman Randolph Maphis for more information, (850) 878-3872 or E-mail to: crmaphis@comcast.net



Reticulata Hyb. 'Marilyn Maphis' (Lilette Witman x 'Hulyn Smith') 2007 by J. L. Mandarich, Menlo Park, CA.



Camellia Show Dates 2014-2015

11 October 2014 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society

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

8 November 2014 - Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society

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

8 November 2014 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Byron Municipal Complex, Byron, GA

8 November 2013 - Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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

6 December 2014 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX.

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

6 December 2014 - Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA

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

13 December 2014 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL

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

20 December 2013 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA

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

3 & 4 January 2015 - Gainesville Camellia Society, Gainesville, FL.

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

17 & 18 January 2015 – Camellia Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL

Colonial Mall, Bel Air, Mobile, AL.

24 January 2015 - Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA—Theodore Roosevelt

Middle School, Kenner, LA

31 January 2015 - Tallahassee Camellia Society, Doyle Conner Administration

Building, 3125 Conner Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL

6 February 2015 - Brookhaven Camellia Society, Brookhaven, MS

Brookhaven Recreation Department, Highway 51 N.

14 & 15 February 2015 - Baton Rouge Camellia Society, Baton Rouge, LA

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

14 February 2015 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Huntsville, TX.

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

21 & 22 February 2015 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Fort Valley, GA

Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley, GA.

7 March 2015 - Southeast Alabama Camellia Club, Dothan,

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

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.



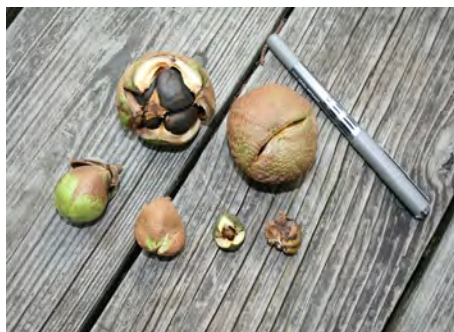
Experimenting with Camellia Seeds

By Brenda Litchfield, Mobile, Alabama



Now is the time to collect camellia seeds – if you can beat the squirrels to them! Growing camellias from seeds presents the camellia enthusiast with a real challenge. Camellias do not come true from seed and rarely is a beautiful flower produced from seed. Out of many seedlings, the chances for a superior bloom are very slim because camellias have been hybridized for over 2000 years to produce the varieties available today. But when you do get one, it will be spectacular! And if the blooms that are not as showy as you want, can use the plant for good understock. So you don't lose anything by experimenting with seeds! You may even have a show winner.

Camellia seeds come in all different sizes and ripen at different times depending on variety and location. However, seeds generally mature in early fall. When seeds are mature, the pod begins to crack slightly and seed are ready to be picked. Select seeds that have the



Seeds are mature when pods begin to crack.



outer covering already opened. Soak the seed for about 12 hours to aid in germination. This will soften the hard outer coating and enable the roots and first leaves to come out sooner.

You can germinate seeds in a plastic bag with sphagnum moss before planting in a pot. Add just enough water to keep the moss in the bag moist. Don't let the bag sit in direct sunlight. When seeds have split and you see the beginnings of a root, you can plant

it being careful not to break the tender roots and leaves.

You may want to keep track of the plants that produced the seed. Label each group so you will know the parentage.

Plant in good soil, peat moss, or a combination of peat moss and sand. Put a layer of sand on top of the mixture. Place the seeds on top of the sand. This is how Tom Nuccio does it at his nursery. They take up a lot less space this way.

Cover the seed with a thin layer of soil. Keep the soil damp. Seeds usually germinate in one month if planted immediately after harvesting. Other seeds may not germinate until spring. Once the

seeds have germinated, transplant into containers or outside. Cutting

off the tap root will produce a more fibrous root system and is helpful if planting in a container. If planted outside, the tap root will help the plant survive during periods of drought or severe cold. Better germination will occur when seed are planted immediately upon ripening.

You may end up with a great bloom. If not, you will certainly end up with plenty of understock. So get out there and find them before the squirrels do!



Keep track of seed by separating and labeling each batch



Fill pot with potting soil, place seed close together on top of a layer of sand and cover with a thin layer of potting soil.



Tom Nuccio's Way



Camellia Quiz

From the 50's. Following are some japonicas that were introduced in the 1950s and are still popular in our region.

Can you name them? Answers on page 26.



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

Some Japanese Words Used in Camellia Names

While we tend to name our camellias after family members or friends, the Japanese usually give their camellias descriptive names or names of things. Some of those listed below you will recognize as varieties grown in the U.S. and some are listed just because I liked the names. _ed.

Aka = red	Mine = Peak or Ridge
Akebono = Dawn	Momoiro = Peach
Aki = Autumn	Murasaki = Purple
Aki-no tsuki = Autumn Moon	Niju = Double
Aajishi = Fierce Lion	Nishiki = Brocade
Ashai = Sunrise	Nippon = Japan
Ba-no-ki = Grandmother's Tree	No = on, of, at
Beni = Red	O = Large
Benten = Variegated Leaf	Otome = Maiden
Botan = Peony	Sakiwake = Variegated Flowering
Cho-no-hanagata = Butterfly Flower	Sakura = Cherry
Form	Sakuraba = Cherry Leaf
Cho-no-mai = Dancing Butterflies	Sazanka = Sasanqua
Dai = Great	Setsugekka = Snow, Moon and
Daikagura = Great Sacred Dance	Flowers
Eboshiya = Hat Shop	Shibori = Variegated
Fugenzo = Elephant of Wisdom	Shima = Island
Fujibotan = Peerless Peony	Shioginu = Bathing Suit
Gashira = Head	Shira = White
Ginpai = Silver Cup	Shiratama = White Pearl
Hagoromo = Robe of Feathers	Shiro = White
Hakuryo = White Dragon	Shirokeche = Pretty White
Hana = Flowers	Butterfly
Hanafubuki = Blizzard of Flowers	Shishi = Lion
Iwane = Base of the Rock	Shishigashira = Lions Head
Jishi = Lions	Shoju = Happiness and Long Life
Jitsugetsu = Sun and Moon	Sukiya = Tea House
Kami-tsubaki = God's Camellia	Tama = Jewel or Gem
Kangahaha = Tough Mother	Toki = Ibis
Kan yotai = Imaginary bag of sun's	Tsubake = Camellia
heat kept for winter	Tsuki = Moon
Kingyo-tsubaki = Goldfish Leaf	Usu = Pale
Camellia	Waka = Younguzu = Swirl
Koshigoromo = Old Purple Clothes	Washi = Eagle
Kuro-tsubaki = Black Camellia	Yama = Mount
Mai = Dancing	Yama-no-yuki = Snow on the
Maikirin = Dancing Giraffe	Mountain
Matsu = Pine	Yamato = Japanese
Mikenjaku = Mythical Giant with	Yuki = Snow
Wide Brows	Yuri = Lily



In the Autumn Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA

Well, we've finally made it through the worst of the summer months with the extended drought in early summer, the rains and the heat, and a lot of "normal" summer days. Our camellias apparently become acclimated better than some of us do. They only complain when there is NO water for extended periods. (They complain by turning their leaves dull, then they start curling inward, and finally give up and die if no water comes.) If you get water to them before the last stage you can often get them to survive. Don't overwater by watering too often and not long enough per occasion.

Continue your disbudding of established japonicas as described in the last issue. (Don't try to disbud the sasanquas, since you want maximum show of blooms during their short season.) By mid-summer the flower buds are easily distinguished from the growth buds. They are rounder and on each side of the more pointed growth bud. You should remove all multiple flower buds except one on each stem. It helps to then remove additional buds if the plant is a large one. Remember the rule of thumb – about 1/3 of the original buds produced on an established plant will actually open into flowers. So, by removing the 2/3 buds that won't open properly anyway, the plant rewards

us with bigger and better blooms and we have less partially opened buds to pick up at the end of the season. Try to finish your disbudding by October so the plant can put all energy into remaining buds.

Add mulch to your plants when the leaves and pine straw start falling in the fall. (Some of our local pine trees have already shed a lot of their needles in July when the drought had gone on for so long.) Put the new mulch on top of the old mulch, which will break down into beneficial humus with some nitrogen and trace element nutrients. Established camellias, well mulched as described above for several years, and pruned each year, generally do not need additional fertilizer to thrive. They get enough from the decomposing mulch material.

If you plan to move an established plant this winter, do some rootpruning during the late summer, so it will have time to grow new feeder roots before the move in December or January. Use a sharp spade to cut around the bush – approximately 1/2 of the circle around the plant. The objective is to cut some of the roots that go out a ways and supply nourishment to the plant. Cutting the roots will encourage new roots to form at the end of the cut root.

A lot of camellia growers enjoy growing camellias from seed. You

will rarely, if ever, get the same flower as the plant, which produced the seed and most of the blooms will be inferior in some way from the seed parent. But once in a while, a really nice, new camellia emerges which is desirable for various reasons. Watch for the seed pods to mature in late summer; they turn from green to lighter green then dull and finally they start cracking. Break them off at that point; in a couple days they'll complete cracking and the dark brown or black seeds come out. Plant immediately in a good soil mix and keep away from the squirrels. Many will germinate for you in fall and winter. Transplant in the early spring and treat like any new plant.

Fall is a good time to select and plant those new camellia plants you've been wanting to add to your garden. When selecting a plant at the nursery, there are several things to look for to help ensure that you will be pleased with your new plant. First, check that the leaves are turgid, a deep green (usually glossy) color that are not infected with scale or other pests. Next check the growth buds (or "eyes") for a green, healthy look for next season's new growth. Check the growth from last season – it should be several inches long. If the growth from last year is only an inch or less, the plant may not be as vigorous as it should. If you can, check the roots; they should be numerous and a dull white color, not brown. A plant which meets all the above criteria should be a vigorous plant which will reward you with

nice blooms for years to come.

October usually brings blooms on the early blooming varieties and November features many more. Fall and early winter months are a good time to plant new camellia plants. They have time to become established before the colder weather and the blooming season. Selections at the nurseries are more complete and the plant puts out new roots all winter and gets off to a great start in the spring.

One of the projects, which the Baton Rouge Camellia Society has undertaken as a partner with Burden Center is the growing of good camellia grafts for sale to our visitors. Varieties are propagated of plants in the Stone Collection, newer varieties currently popular at the flower shows, and are generally not available at local nurseries. Plants are sold at all Camellia Society functions held at Burden Center.

Prepare your planting location as soon in the fall as you know the place. Work the soil by blending in good bark mulch and topsoil mixed with the native soil (equal parts). The planting location will be ready for the new plant you get in October or November (or later).

One of the things that sustain us camellia growers through the hot humid summer is the memory of blooming season past and anticipation of the new season coming up. Somehow, it will make the wait worthwhile.



Editor's Notes

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA

kennbc@cox.net



Grafting by moon phases - wrap-up: After the last issue, I received an e-mail from Forrest Latta in which he stated: "I was most interested in your comments about moon grafting. I once read that the old timers did that, as reported in some 50 year old articles of mine, but I have never seen it mentioned again -- until now. Everyone has their own preferred ways, and I now try to do all my grafting in the 1st quarter of the moon, preferably during early March (later than most people) and using only blind eyes (not terminal ends). My success rate doubled!"

This prompted me to do another search of the internet to see what else I could find. I found a number of sites, not specifically related to camellias, but related to grafting and culture in general which would apply to camellias. The article on the next page is a recap of moon grafting and culture of camellias. (And I promise not to bore you with anymore moon stories.)

Do you have a spot that is impossible to water and the camellias don't grow well there. Here is a possible solution. The grafted plant on the far left was planted here over 50 years ago in heavy clay soil with a lot of organic matter added. It thrived for many years until all the organic matter was used up. Now when we have a period of drought it declines a little bit more. Similar plantings in the bed died c o m p l e t e l y . Remembering the tap root on the volunteer seedlings that I have dug up, I decided to plant camellia seed in the locations where I wanted to have a plant. The seedling plant on the right is about 4 years old and is ready to graft. The smaller plants are 1 and 2 year seedling. They have never been watered, so the taproot must go deep into the clay.



Camellia Quiz Answers

1. Tomorrow 1953, Tick Tock, Thomasville, GA; **2. Charlotte Bradford** 1950. Bradford, Ocean Springs, MS; **3. Sea Foam** 1959, Weisner, Fernandina Beach, FL; **4. Mark Allen Var.** 1958, Ashby, Charleston, SC; **5. Mississippi Beauty** 1956, Chiles, Hattiesburg, MS; **6. Mrs. D. W. Davis** 1954, Davis, Seffner, FL.

Camellia Culture and the Lunar Cycle - A Recap

By Kenn Campbell

In the Spring 2014 issue, we showed the percentage of takes related to the phases of the moon for all my grafts since 1969. The results were:

New Moon - 48%; 1st Qtr - 85%; Full Moon - 39%; Last Qtr - 73%

An update in the Spring 2014 issue gave the results for the Spring of 2014:

New Moon - none made; 1st Qtr - 100%; Full Moon - 33%; Last Qtr - 83%

Following is some information from the internet on culture related to the lunar cycles.

THE MOON PHASES

(from the Permaculture Association of South Australia's 1988 Calendar)

The Moon phase is the dominant influence in lunar planting. This is an ancient planting system known to every early culture throughout the world. Working with the appropriate phase of the Moon for all aspects of planting, cultivation, and harvesting will increase quality as well as quantity in your crops.

The days of Full Moon and New (or Dark) Moon are best avoided. Use them for celebration, or rest and meditation.



New Moon Phase - 12 hours after New Moon to First Quarter

First Quarter Phase - First Quarter to 12 hours before Full Moon

The energy (and the sap) is still fresh rising - this is a good phase for starting anything. Plant, graft and transplant annuals that produce above ground.

Full Moon Phase - 12 hours after Full Moon to Last quarter. There is a peaking of the electromagnetic energy of all living things at the exact time of the Full Moon, and then a slow withdrawal of energy for the next two weeks, as the Moon wanes.

Last Quarter Phase - Last Quarter to 12 hours before New Moon

This is a barren phase, where it is most appropriate to rest or to prepare for the next New Moon. It is great for cultivation - pulling weeds, turning the earth, pruning, spraying. Apply fertilizers any time during the Waning Moon, from Full Moon onward.

PLANTING BY THE MOON PHASES

(extracted from *The Lunar Garden: Planting by the Moon Phases* by E. A. Crawford)

The Influence of the Moon

The moon's orbit around our planet affects the rising and falling tides, air currents on the earth's surface, and the occurrence of thunderstorms. The gravitational pull of both the sun and the moon affects us, but we feel the effects of the moon more acutely. While the moon has a much smaller mass, it is 390

times closer to us than the sun.

Tides manifest the gravitational pull of the moon as it circles the earth. If you think of the water on the earth as a thin skin on the surface mass of the planet, it is easy to understand how the gravitational effects of the moon's orbit can pull the water mass gently from side to side.

The correlation of moon and tide may not seem to have anything to do with planting or gardening, but consider the fact that the water content of the earth responds to the same tide cycle as the massive bodies of water that cover our planet. The tides reach their highest point every 14.6 days or twice a month. The highest tides occur just after the full and new moons. Once a month, when the moon is at perigee (nearest the earth), tides are pulled 30% higher than at apogee, the point at which the moon is farthest from the earth....

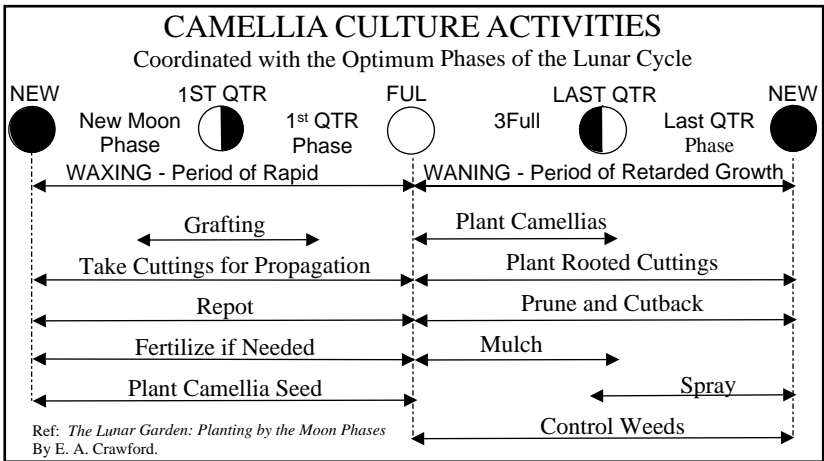
The Waxing and Waning Moon

The lunar month is divided into two basic moon activities: waxing and waning. The beginning of each process is designated by the new and full moon. A full moon occurs when the moon is 180 degrees opposite the sun, in position to receive sunlight over the maximum volume of its surface. A new moon occurs when the sun and moon are so closely aligned that it is impossible for the moon to give off any reflected sunlight. Waxing occurs in the period between the new and the full moon. Waning describes lunar activity between the full and the new moon. When the moon is waxing, it is said to be in its first and second quarters. The waning of the moon brings the phases through the third and fourth quarters of the cycle.

Grafting and Pruning

As the water table rises and falls with the lunar cycle, a pressure builds up and is released in a cyclical manner. As the water table falls, pressure on roots decreases. This is a good time to prune because the decrease in pressure means less moisture loss from cut areas. Grafting works best when sap is rising which is occurring during the water table rise, according to the University of California.

Therefore, it appears that we should try to do our grafting within a day or two on either side of the 1st. Quarter of the moon. For 2015 these days are M-W Jan 26-28; Tues - Thur Feb 24-26; and Thur - Sat Mar 26-28.



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.pensacolacamelliaclub.com

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



C. japonica "Frank Gibson" 1951, by Mrs. F. L. Gibson,
Thomasville, GA



C. japonica "Fero!" 1972, by Holden Naff, Birmingham,
AL



C. japonica "Liberty Var." 1959, by Gerbing, Fernandina
Beach, FL



C. japonica "Dixie Knight Supreme" 1961, by
Wheeler Central Georgia Nursery, Macon, GA

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join

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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