

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Summer 2015

Volume 41 No. 3



Photo by Randolp Maphis

Reticulata hybrid 'Terrell Waever Var.' Homeyer, Macon GA 1974

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society
Membership Roster Edition

The Gulf Coast Camellian

Volume 41 No. 3 Summer 2015

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From the Cover

"Terrell Weaver Var."



This is one of the more common reticulata hybrid varieties grown and can often be found growing well in the outside garden but the bloom in this photo is far from common. Variegation does not get much better than this. "Terrell Weaver" was originated by Dr. Walter Homeyer, from Macon, GA, way back in 1974 and is a cross of *retic Crimson Robe* x *japonica Ville de Nantes*. "Terrell Weaver Var." was one of Hulyn Smith's All Time Favorites because it would really put on a show with all the moried variegation.

President's Message

Jim Dwyer
Foley, Alabama



As I write this, summer is beginning to make an appearance with possible 90s in the forecast. I hope everyone has the major part of their camellia care completed before the real gulf coast summer gets into full swing in a few weeks. My camellias are doing too well. Around 13 years ago when I started planting camellias at my present location I made the mistake that many overly enthusiastic camellia gardeners make. I assumed that I could grow more camellias if I planted on six foot centers. This worked fine for a number of years. Even with careful watering and fertilizing I got only a few inches of growth for the first few years (possibly because the plants needed time to become established in my very sandy soil). Recently however, in spite of the fact that I am not fertilizing and do limited watering, most of my camellias are growing like weeds. This spring many of my plants produced over a foot of new growth. I now realize that the six foot spacing should have been fifteen feet. I need to remind myself when I plant a camellia that "THIS IS A BABY TREE!"

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Geri Jinks. She passed away on Friday, March 6, 2015. Her

contributions to *The Gulf Coast Camellian* and the Gulf Coast Camellia Society will be missed. I understand that there will be a tribute to her in this issue of *The Gulf Coast Camellian*.

Plans are underway for our October 19 & 20 meeting at Hollywood Casino. Be sure to mark this on your calendar. Andy Houdek and the New Orleans camellia club are planning a great meeting. Andy and Joyce have donated two beautiful framed camellia prints for the raffle. If you have any items for the silent auction or plants for the live auction, they will be greatly appreciated.

Send photos and other information about your club to Kenn Campbell for inclusion in *The Gulf Coast Camellian*. I'm sure he would also appreciate articles on camellia culture, breeding, and other topics that might be of interest to our readers.

Please share any comments, suggestions, and concerns that you have with our officers, board members and me. Any ideas about recruiting new members, educational programs, special projects, etc. would be welcome.



From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson
Brookhaven, Mississippi



A DAY IN PARADISE

On February 28th of this year the camellia lovers of the Gulf Coast were privileged to spend time at the “Camellia Heaven” of John Grimm in Bush, La. John has over 12,000 camellias planted in this lovely place and it truly is wonderful. The garden is divided into “rooms” by varieties, such as La. origins, scented, all kinds of categories.

He had arranged to have seminars all day, starting with Florence Crowder who talked about the history of

Florence has been very diligent and helpful to many of us and camellia people in the South by finding out the true names of our darlings. Later there were other talks about arranging camellias and other helpful lectures.

John was a very gracious host, we had lots of cold drinks and plenty of shade and seating. I am sure his late wife Stephanie was there in spirit and made sure the weather was great and things went well. She was always good about sharing her knowledge and hints about these lovely plants. For any of you who were unable to attend this please mark your calendars for next year.

Following this we had been invited to David and Mary Mizell’s nursery to help celebrate their 25th year in business. They come to our show every year and bring wonderful plants to sell! Mary is also a judge now and a very good one. We gorged ourselves on jambalaya, sandwiches, cakes, cookies and lots of tea and drinks. Afterward, we toured the nursery on golf carts and Mary showed us her “secret” camellia gardens. Naturally, we did NOT leave empty handed. They have a huge plant selection and of course it was a matter of how much room we had in our cars, trucks and suvs! We had a wonderful day and it was truly a day in paradise, especially if you love camellias as we do.



Historical camellia japonica ‘Elegans’ 1831

camellias in the Western world. She told how they had gotten to England and Europe and to this country. She mentioned the difficulty of identifying the true names of varieties that are known by one name or several names in this country and indeed, worldwide.

IN MEMORIAM

On March 6th we lost a wonderful friend and member of the Brookhaven Camellia Society, Geri Jinks.

Geri is now tending her own camellia garden and of course is meeting others we have lost over the years. She was a very special, caring person and my best friend. Geri is the one who some years back asked me if I would write this column for the magazine. I have been doing it since then and she was always helpful and kind.

She also went to a lot of effort to find and purchase the prizes for our show. Every year, we have always had beautiful prizes thanks to her efforts.

Anytime something needed to be done, she was always there to help. Her dedication will be greatly missed. Over the years we have moved so much it was hard for me to make many women

friends, most of our time was spent up north. She was a true friend and was always available if I needed to "vent." She was so helpful if there were things I couldn't talk about to many other people.

She was married to Michael Jinks and had two children,

D e s t r y
Michael and
B l y t h e
Elizabeth.

Geri was a freelance writer/editor and worked many years at the *Daily Leader* as Copy Editor and feature story writer.

I know Mike and her children will miss her every day, but we all will. Some people are hard or impossible to replace and she was one of them. Goodbye, dear friend.

Lynn



Geri McDavid Jinks passed away on March 6, 2015



Mike said that Geri's favorite camellia was 'Frank Houser Var. but that she loved them all.

*Memorial contributions were made to the Camellian Trust fund in memory of Geri Jenks by: Al and Vickie Baugh
Kenn and Ruby Campbell*

Turning a Tragedy into a Work of Art

Submitted by: Roger Roy, Vice-President Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Linda and I live on Live Oak Plantation northeast of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Two years ago, lightning struck a Black Walnut tree in the pasture in front of our home. A neighbor called and said that we had a tree on fire out front. Taking buckets of water from our lake, I was able to put the fire out. Being a lover of fine wood, I didn't want the tree to go to waste. I tried to sell it, or at least get someone to come look at it, for a year with no luck.

I had given up on the tree and was afraid that it would be too damaged to be of any use. While working at the Baton Rouge Camellia Show, I saw a gentleman sitting by a table filled with wooden bowls and pieces that he had turned on a lathe. After a nice conversation, my new friend, Mr. Stewart Couvillion agreed to come to our home to look at the tree. The tree proved to be larger than he and I could safely handle but the wood was still in good shape. Mr. Couvillion knew someone who would cut it up for use to use for a share of the wood. We proceeded with this plan and had the tree cut into chunks which he stored in his attic to cure.

Six months later, Mr. Couvillion invited me to come to his house not only to watch, but also to receive lessons on the art of turning wood. This is a slow and tedious process. I watched in wonder as this artist turned a tree branch into a wonderful work of art. Linda and I were



Stewart Couvillion in his Baton Rouge Workshop

*A dish from the
storm downed
walnut tree.*



Coffee table made from a slice of the walnut tree.



*Spalted camellia
wood bowls.*



presented with three large bowls which we in turn gave as Christmas presents to our three daughters. We also have several large platters, smaller pieces, and a lovely piece which can be used as a vase or a cookie jar.

Mr. Couvillion called and said he had a large piece of the tree which he thought could be made into a coffee table and would we be interested. This was a beautiful piece of wood with some of the bark still attached. Of course, we said we would love to have this addition to the pieces we already had. We researched this type of table and decided on the type of leg we would like. We now have a beautiful piece of furniture which will no doubt become a family heirloom.

Mr. Couvillion's workshop is filled with bowls, salt and pepper shakers, platters, and other items too numerous to mention. When we first met him at the Camellia show, he had numerous pieces of Camellia wood. Gerald Phares, president of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, gave Mr. Couvillion a large piece of Camellia trunk which he turned into a beautiful bowl. We now keep an eye open for large old camellias that die and pass the wood on to Stewart. I told my wife that I had my eye on four twenty-five foot Camellia trees in front of the old plantation home (only kidding).

My hat is off to a fine Christian friend who can turn a tree branch or trunk into a work of beauty.

Mr. Stewart Couvillion can be reached at 9925 Kinglet Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-293-0429, stew9965@cox.net

***Camellia wood turnings
by Stewart Couvillion.***



A Book Review

Jio, Sarah. *The Last Camellia*. Plume, 2013

By Ruby Campbell, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

[The article relating to “Middlemist’s Red”: The World’s Rarest Camellia? in the previous issue of this journal, reminded me of a book I had recently read called The Last Camellia written by Sarah Jio (Plume, 2013). Her novel must certainly have been based on the David Derbyshire updated 2010 article because the parallels are too similar to have been otherwise. Nevertheless, inspiration must come from somewhere, and just as Jio’s inspiration came from Derbyshire’s article, so does mine come from her book for this review.]

The time: April 1803.

The setting: An English countryside cottage.

The scene:
An old woman, nervous and shaken, tries to come to grips with herself over what she has just seen. A camellia blossom: white with pink tips – The “Middlebury Pink.” She was quite certain of it.

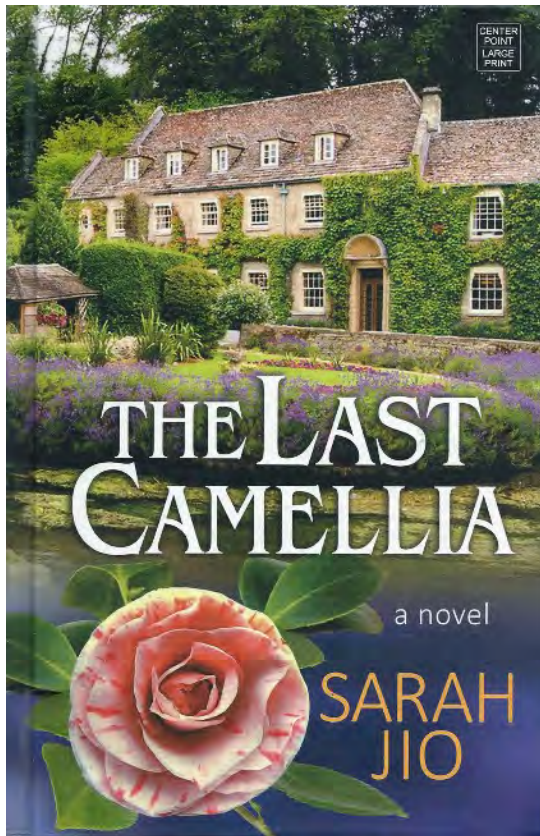
Her now deceased husband had purchased the tiny plant many years earlier for a sixpence which they could ill-afford to lose. The traveling salesman said that it had been propagated from a shoot of the only known cultivar growing in the Queen’s garden. The old woman had not believed that story, but her husband tended to the

camellia for twenty years and it grew into a fine tree. But it had never bloomed!

After her husband died, the old woman paid no attention to the camellia until that morning when the “fleck of pink” caught her eye. The single saucer-sized blossom was the most magnificent flower she had ever seen. And now, the old woman had to deal with the royal decree which had just recently been issued.

When a storm decimated the Queen’s

original tree, she learned that a former palace gardener had propagated a cutting of the camellia and had sold it to a farmer in a nearby village. The Queen’s footmen



were ordered to search the countryside for the camellia and arrest the person who had it.

“No,” thought the old woman. “No one shall ever find this tree.”

Now, fast-forward to the early 1940s just prior to World War II. An international ring of thieves has learned that the last surviving specimen of the “Middlebury Pink” is secreted on the English estate of Lord Livingston. Young Flora Lewis, an amateur American botanist, is coerced into infiltrating Livingston Manor as a nanny and locate the coveted plant for them. Her search, however, uncovers much more sinister events than a hidden rare plant.

It then becomes necessary for the reader to take another “quantum leap: of more that fifty years to the 21st century and the story of Addison Sinclair, a garden designer in New York City, who tries to escape her past by flying with her husband Rex, and taking up residence at the Livingston Manor now owned by her husband’s

parents. The ambiance of the manor complete with the mysterious housekeeper, the enchanting camellia orchard, and an old gardener’s notebook, soon has mystery-writer Rex choosing to restart the novel he had originally planned to write while in England, to a murder mystery about a family in the old manor spanning several generations.

Bouncing from Flora’s story to Addison’s and back again repeatedly as each chapter alternates between the two, tends to make the reader want to read all of Flora’s story first, then Addison’s, but then the melding of their lives would be missed and the dramatic conclusion lost.

Readers of light mystery may enjoy this easy to read page turner written by best-selling author and camellia admirer, Sarah

Jio of Seattle, Washington, whose mother introduced her to camellias. Camellia grower’s however, might question her knowledge of camellia culture. Nevertheless, it is a “fun read.”



C. japonica ‘Middlemist’s Red’ also known as ‘Middlemist’s Blush’ was undoubtedly the inspiration for the camellia called the ‘Middlebury Pink’ in “The Last Camellia.”



Camellia Japonica "Zelda Fitzgerald"

By Terri R. Peterson



Developed in 2012 by Green Nurseries and Landscape Design of Fairhope, Alabama, this dazzling beauty was originally given the provisional name, "Cake Icing." But the flamboyant character of the flower demanded that it be appropriately named for Alabama's own Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald, herself a flamboyant character who was styled "the first American flapper" by her equally flamboyant husband, novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, on 24 July 1900, Zelda Layne Sayre was the youngest child of Anthony Dickinson Sayre (1858–1931), a justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama and one of

Alabama's leading jurists, and his wife, Minerva Buckner "Minnie" Machen (1860– 958). The family had descended from early settlers of Long Island who had moved to Alabama before the War Between the States. By the time of Zelda's birth, the Sayres were a prominent Southern family.

A spoiled child, Zelda was doted upon by her mother, but her father was a strict and remote man. Always extremely active, Zelda danced, took ballet lessons and enjoyed the outdoors. In 1914 she began attending Sidney Lanier High School. She was bright but uninterested in her lessons. Her work in ballet continued into high school, where she had an active

social life. She drank, smoked and spent much of her time with boys, and she remained a leader in the local youth social scene. She developed an appetite for attention, actively seeking to flout convention—whether by dancing the Charleston, or by wearing a tight, flesh-colored bathing suit to fuel rumors that she swam nude. Her father's reputation was a safety net, preventing her social ruin. Southern women of the time were expected to be delicate, docile and accommodating. But Zelda's antics were shocking to those around her, and she became, along with her childhood friend and future Hollywood starlet, Tallulah Bankhead, a mainstay of Montgomery gossip. Her ethos was encapsulated beneath her high-school graduation photo:

“Why should all life be work, when we all can borrow. Let's think only of today, and not worry about tomorrow.”

The 1920 US Federal Census shows Scott, aged 23, living with his parents, mechanic Edward Fitzgerald and wife Mary McClintan, and sister Anabelle, 18, at 599 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, where he had been born in September 1896. That same census listed Zelda, aged

19, with her parents at Pleasant Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama.

Sources vary as to how Zelda and Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald met. One suggests that they met at a country club dance while another claims their first encounter was in a train station in July 1918. Whichever is correct, it is the latter

that Scott put in his novel *The Great Gatsby* which he completed in October 1924.

At first, Zelda was unimpressed by Scott, a 21 year old Army officer stationed temporarily at Camp Sheridan, a U.S. Army World War I National Guard Mobilization and Training Camp first established in 1917 near Montgomery. She agreed with her family that his limited financial prospects were insufficient to provide for a family. Nevertheless, possibly

because of Scott's professed infatuation, a light flirtation evolved into a lengthy long distance courtship of weekly letters. The signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918, had spared Scott's deployment in the Great War, and he had moved to New York where he worked in advertising. Determined to obtain financial security, and thus Zelda, Scott increased his writing from articles to his



*Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald,
“the first American flapper”*

first book, *This Side of Paradise*. When Scribner's Sons agreed to publish his novel on March 20, 1920, Scott immediately cabled Zelda asking her to travel to New York where they would be married. Zelda arrived in New York on March 30th and they were married on April 3rd before a small wedding party in St. Patrick's Cathedral.



F. Scott Fitzgerald

Zelda's wild ways had not diminished with marriage and she and Scott, who was already an alcoholic, became celebrities in "buttoned down and class-conscious" New York as much for their wild behavior as for the success of *This Side of Paradise*. They were seen riding on top of a cab down Fifth Avenue. They were ordered to leave the Biltmore Hotel and the Commodore Hotel for their drunkenness. Zelda once jumped into the fountain at Union Square. Their social life was run by alcohol. They were the *enfants terribles* of the Jazz Age and the newspapers of the day turned them into the icons of youth and success.

On Valentine's Day, 1921, while Scott was working on his second novel, *The Beautiful and Damned* (Scribner's, 1922), Zelda learned that she was pregnant. The couple decided to go to Scott's home in St. Paul, Minnesota, to have the baby. She gave birth to a daughter, Frances "Scottie" Fitzgerald on 26 October 1921 and as Zelda emerged from the anesthetic, Scott recorded her saying that she hoped her daughter was "beautiful and a fool – a beautiful little fool."



Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald

Many of Zelda's words – even from her diaries – found their way into Scott's novels. In *The Great Gatsby*, the character Daisy Buchanan expresses a similar hope for her daughter. And although Scott repeatedly used her words and their lives as subjects for his novels, he became quite angry when she used the same approach in her only novel, *Save Me the Waltz* (Scribner, 1932) and called her "plagiaristic" and a "third-rate writer." This, along with the lack of sales for which she earned

only \$120.73, crushed her spirits and she never published another novel.

Scott and Zelda moved to Europe in 1920 and associated with literary luminaries like Gertrude Stein and her partner Alice G. Toklas, and Ernest Hemingway, a favorite of Scott's, but thoroughly disliked by Zelda openly describing Hemingway as "bogus" and "phony as a rubber check."



Zelda

By the mid-1920s, the marriage of Zelda and Scott was a tangle of jealousy, resentment and bitterness. Zelda overdosed on sleeping pills, but whether deliberate or not was never ascertained. From the mid-1930s, she spent the rest of her life in various stages of mental distress. She produced some paintings during this time period, but was in turn both violent, then reclusive. In 1936, Scott placed her in the Highland Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina. She remained there while Scott went to Hollywood, California, for his \$1000 a week job with MetroGolden-Mayer in June 1937 and his affair with movie columnist, Sheilah Graham. By now, Scott was bitter and burned out and blamed Zelda for having "made him exhaust his talents." Yet, they wrote to each other frequently until his death from a heart attack in December 1940.

On 4 April 1940, Zelda was still a resident of Highland Hospital as per the US Census, but was released shortly after that date. The 1946 Montgomery City Directory shows her living at 322 Sayre St., the widow of Francis S. Fitzgerald. She began a second novel, *Caesar's Things*, while checking in and out of Highland Hospital, but never completed it. On the night of 10 March 1948, Zelda was locked into a room awaiting electroshock therapy, when a fire broke out in the hospital kitchen. The fire moved through



Scott

the dumbwaiter shaft, spreading onto every floor. Nine women, including Zelda, died.

Had Zelda Sayre been born a few decades later, she would have found the world more welcoming to independent and creative women.

But the flamboyant "flapper" will be remembered through Green Nurseries' fantastic camellia "Zelda Fitzgerald" which should be available in the fall after having earlier "sold the few [they] had as an initial offering."



The Baton Rouge Society Sponsors Judges Clinic

By Rebecca S. Christian, Baton Rouge, LA

The Baton Rouge Camellia Society sponsored an ACS Judging School for Re-accreditation & Novice Training of participants to serve as judges for the American Camellia Society sponsored shows. Instructors, Gerald Phares and Lynn Vicknair, convened the April 10 session at the Steele Burden Orangerie, LSU Burden Ag Center.

The six participants included Dr. Candance Collins and Nancy Crawford, Baton Rouge, LA; W.B.

Middleton, Plaquemine, LA; Don and Jenny Marcotte and Bill McCranor; Conway, TX.

Dr. Collins received a five year re-accreditation.

The five other participants are now certified to serve as novice judges in area camellia shows upon invitation. They must successfully serve as a novice judge in at least 5 shows within a 5 year period in order to become accredited judges.



**Front Row L to R : Dr. Candance Collins; Jenny Marcotte; and Nancy Crawford.
Back Row L to R : Gerald Phares, BRCS President; W.B. Middleton; Don Marcotte;
and Bill McCranor.**

Scene of the Crime

By Bette Hooton, Pensacola, Florida



Imagine my surprise as I pulled into my driveway sometime during the Louisiana iris-amaryllis blooming season and found CRIME SCENE TAPE tied around several of our beautiful amaryllis—Apple Blossom, some beautiful orange ones that Dick’s aunt had given us many years ago, and several snow white varieties! As I got out of the car, I saw that horrible yellow tape around some yellow irises that had had the nerve to pop up among the lavender ones. And to add insult to injury, stuck in my front door was the card of a Pensacola Police officer! What is going on here!

As Dick came out of the garage (all smiles), he was muttering, “See, I’ve got them now. They won’t get away from me this year.”

Then I followed him around the yard trying to find out what was going on, trying to listen instead of shrieking at him.

And he said, “I tagged the different ones because they somehow got mixed up with my red amaryllis. I will move them out as soon as they finish blooming.”

“But they look so pretty all mixed together, all different colors,” I whimpered, keeping my voice level. The man had lost his mind for sure.

So he just ignored me and went on about where he would put the ‘different’ ones, paying no attention to me. And then I had a thought.

He must be having some sort of withdrawal—let me explain: camellia season is over and that says it all. No Skip on the phone every hour on the hour, no Paul texting ME to find out about a plant (Dick doesn’t text.), no Alan emailing a picture of a camellia to identify. Funny. But also, no walking in the yard at dusk or daybreak to discover a new little bloom and the wonder of that discovery. Sad. Withdrawal, that’s what this mental condition has got to be.

As for the card from the police, well, that’s another totally different story not worth telling.





LeAnna Brennan demonstrates Air Layering at the Pensacola Camellia Club. She reports: "Every spring our club creates air layers that we nurture for a year in our shade house, then put up for adoption to raise the funds that keep us going through the year. We go to multiple gardens and air layer desirable camellias that are harvested in October. When you go to a host garden (or your own garden) and create four air layers, you get to keep one when we harvest them."

Photo N. Vickers



Dr. Mack Thetford, PCC member and horticulturalist attached to U. of FL, Milton, demonstrates plants propagated by rooting at the September PCC meeting.

AROUND



John Davy talks to an attentive audience about pruning camellias at the April meeting of the Pensacola Camellia Club held at the "Camellia Corner" of the Garden Center.

Photo N. Vickers



*Camellia
common
Azalea.
autumn
continues*



New PCC President Christi Hankins accepts camellia-wood gavel from outgoing president Paul Bruno. In background, Dick Hooton, left, and Alan McMillan, rt.
Photo by N. Vickers.



Consulting regarding older varieties. This at the downtown home of Bill Turner, rt., From left-- Dick Hooton, Leland Leonard, Skip Vogelsang, and Bill Turner.
Photo by N. Vickers

THE REGION



*ia species azalea wei,
 n name 'Camellia
 ' Blooms summer to
 a and can bloom
 ously.*



Baton Rouge Camellia Society grafts are checked by (from left) Mike Ruth, Joe Holmes, Sharon Phares, and Wayne Hiter.

GCCS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2015

Alden, Brenda & Tommy, 3204 Burnett Road, Byron, GA 31008 478-967-1337
American Camellia Society, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030-9100 478-967-2358 crichard@americancamellias.org
Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, P.O. Box 1087, Clinton NC 28329-1087
Ballard, Michael, P.O. Box 66196, Mobile, AL 36600-1196 251-473-4228
Barlow, Lawrence & Shelly, 3591 Kentucky Trail, Chesapeake, VA 23323
751-487-8082 larrybarlow@cautel.net
Bates, Larry, 10 Joe Gunter Rd., Forest Hill, LA 71430 731-514-6227
larryvbates@hotmail.com
Baugh, Al & Vickie, 31287 Blakeley Ridge Ct., Spanish Fort, AL 36527-5136 251-621-9930 vmb_baugh@bellsouth.net
Bazer, David, 700 Livingston Ave., Shreveport, LA 71107 318-424-0472
davebazer@bellsouth.net
Benko, Ronald & Dean, 43103 W. Pleasant Ridge, Hammond, LA 70403
985-542-5398 ronbenko@worldnet.att.net
Bergamini, Don, 2023 Huntrudge Ct., Martinez, CA 94553-5335 925-229-0775
camelliadon@comcast.net
Bilyeu, Dennis, 5275 Longmire Court, Conroe, TX 77304
Bishop, Edna H., 402 Becker, Brookhaven, MS 39601 601-754-9987
sbishop1@bellsouth.net
Blanchard, Joan I., 2020 W. Romana St., Pensacola, FL 32502 850-432-4216
jblanc6000@aol.com
Boudreaux, Dudley & Lois, P.O. Box 146 Port Neches, TX 77651-0146
406-722-4994 dboudreaux@gt.rr.com
Boyd, Ann, 400 S. Jackson St., Brookhaven, MS 39601-3818
Bradford, Henry & Pat, 73444 Plantation St., Covington, LA 70535-6005
Brechter, Bart, P.O. Box 6826, Houston, TX 77265
Breeland, Alfred & Renae, 154 Edgewater Dr., Biloxi, MS 39531-4709
228-388-5199 tobyfatcat@bellsouth.net
Bright, Fay, 907 S. Chestnut St., Hammond, LA 70403 985-542-9477
fsbright@bellsouth.net
Broders, Jr., Leo E., 543 Seyburn Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-5562
225-766-3972 leoejr@bellsouth.net
Brodie, Rose Anne, 145 Crepe Myrtle Rd., Covington, LA 70433 985-892-6246
Brown, Leo, 8600 Tutwiler Ln., Mobile, AL 36619 251-633-7279
Bush, Allen, 880 Western Lake Dr., Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32429
870-763-1776 ajb1@swbell.net
Bush, Mary Alice, 454 Greenwood Ln., Ridgeland, MS 39157-4000
Butler, Mr. & Mrs. Tom, 1265 Knollwood, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-924-5652 mairhelene@aol.com
Calloway, Ray & Kay, P.O. Box 507, Point Clear, AL 36564-0507 251-928-1213
Campbell, James Green, 16068 Riverside Dr., Covington, LA 70435-7923
985-630-9899 rivercamellia@bellsouth.net

Campbell, Kenn & Ruby, 3310 Fairway Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225-923-1697 kennbc@cox.net

Causey, John, 6167 N. Greenburg Rd., Summit, MS 39666 601-754-2694
john_causey@att.net

Chaffin, Mana, P.O. Box 199, Lillian, TX 76061-0199 817-477-3910
earthworksinc@msn.com

Charbonnet, Hunter & Meg, 16423 Summerhill Rd., Covington, LA 70435
985-705-3052 hcharb.1@gmail.com

Christian, Rebecca & Bob, 4634 Hyacinth Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-930-9330 rebeccaschristian@gmail.com

Ciolino, Vincent, P.O. Box 1527, Covington, LA 70434-1527 985-773-4547

Clark, Ken & Kay, 6973 Whitlow Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-767-7973
2kkclark@gmail.com

Cline, Jennifer, 14126 Chenal Rd., Jarreau, LA 70749 225-718-0261
jcline9261@gmail.com

Collins, Drs. Jason & Candance, P.O. Box 806, New Roads, LA 70760
225-638-8351 ccoil34257@charter.net

Comber, Carol, 521 Long Lake Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506-5683 850-455-8496
cjeanc2@hotmail.com

Corban, Mac & Peggy, P.O. Box 1430, Long Beach, MS 39560-1430
228-864-4352 magruderscor@cableone.net

Crawford, Mark, 2867 Carroll Ulmer Rd., Valdosta, GA 31601 229-460-5922
craw142@bellsouth.net

Creighton, Walter & Alice, 2685 Snow Rd., Semmes, AL 36575-6805
251-649-1426

Crowder, Florence, 1149 Cockerham Rd., Denham Springs, LA 70726
225-665-8179 florence.crowder@cox.net

Dale, John & Priscilla, 549 Duncan Ave., Natchez, MS 39120
601-446-9924 priscillad@bellsouth.net

Davis, Rosamay, 4718 Hallmark Dr. #853, Houston, TX 77056 713-781-1996
gedavis456@aol.com

Davis, George & Jane, 16 N. Monterey St., Mobile, AL 36604-1317
251-471-9315 camelliafan@aol.com

Dickson, Mary Caroline, 72 N. Highlands Dr., Poplarville, MS 39470
601-403-8268 mcdpopcamellia@bellsouth.net

Dillemuth, Bob & Paula, 5848 Guava Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-767-5470 crdillemuth@att.net

Dillon, Cassandra G., P.O. Box 1482, Pascagoula, MS 39568

Dodson, Dr. William H. & Ann, 4311 Kennesaw Dr., Birmingham, AL 35213
205-871-2827 bdodson4311@charter.net

Drews, Rupert, 568 Galera Lane, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 843-971-7292

Drury, Benjamin, 6307 Landmark Dr., Alexandria, LA 71301-2343

Dwyer, James & Eileen, 14040 Riverside Dr., Foley, AL 36535
251-988-1405 jdwyer@gulftel.com

Edwards, Mary, 2405 N. 18th Ave., Pensacola, FL 32503-5406
850-433-2356

Egnew, Theta, 77 Shady Lane, Slidell, LA 70461-1539 985-643-3240
egnewa@bellsouth.net

Ehrhart, Bob & Linda, 2081 Norris Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925-937-0188 rehrh72822@aol.com

Eidem, Richard & Sarah, 11363 Newton Circle, Conroe, TX 77303-3249 9
936-264-2437 seake@consolidated.net

Estes, Shirley, 504 Becker St., Brookhaven, MS 39601 601-833-8390
boguwild@bellsouth.net

Eubanks, Nell, 217 Methodist Blvd. #148, Hattiesburg, MS 39402
228-374-9958

Ferlito, Nick & Brin, 1702 Longview Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Fetterman, Annabelle, 208 Fox Lake Dr., Clinton, NC 28328-3108 910-592-3735

Fleming, Hugh & Martha, 70333 N. Hickory Hill Rd., Kentwood, LA 70444 985-
229-3523 marthafleming1@live.com

Frank, Dick & Sandra 1018 Stonewall Dr. Nashville TN 37220-1023
615-383-7058 cdrfrank@bellsouth.net

Gainesville Camellia Society, 1721 SW 82nd Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32607

Gamble, William & Alice, 5118 Queens Loch Dr., Houston, TX 77096

Gillespie, Sara E., P.O. Box 15517, Hattiesburg, MS 39404-5517

Glass, Dr. Walter D. & Brenda, 3768 Kinross Dr., Birmingham, AL 35242- 5801
205-408-5756 glasswd@bellsouth.net

Gordy, Lillian, 7188 NW 14th St., Ocala, FL 34482-8225 352-854-1348
gordylove@embarqmail.com

Gralapp, William, 1815 Old Shell Rd., Mobile, AL 36607-3416 251-473-2535

Grimm, John, 4113 Transcontinental Dr., Metairie, LA 70006 504-610-7828
camelliasaver@gmail.com

Hairston, Bill & Louise, 2540 Aberdeen Rd., Birmingham, AL 35223-1057
205-993-1180

Hall, Harold & Caryl W., 1102 Millard Dr., Nacodoches, TX 75965-2640
935-560-3322 cwhall2@suddenlink.net

Hardwick, Bill & Sally, 179 Milton Road, Reynolds, GA 31076-3703
478-847-3541

Harry, Jana, 14005 Viginia St., Vancleave, MS 39565-6941 228-872-0908

Hart, Eileen, 16921 Crawley Rd., Odessa, FL 33556 813-920-2987
eplants@hotmail.com

Heard Larry 4213 Halls Mill Rd. Mobile AL 36693 251-661-3608
Larry_Heard@bellsouth.net

Hegwood, C. P., 35 Belle Meade Rd., Holly Springs, MS 38635-6006 225-266-6054
chegwood2@gmail.com

Hirasaki, George , 4905 Linden St., Bellaire, TX 77401-4434 713-662-2946
ghirasaki@att.net

Hiter, Wayne, 6516 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-769-1947
gwhiter@cox.net

Hogsette, Jerry & Harriet, 11407 SW 24th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32607-1233
352-332-4761 jhogestt@bellsouth.net

Holland, Edward, 314 Shasta Dr., Houston, TX 77024-6917 713-461-8009

Holmes, Joe & Laura, 1931 Indigo Dr., St. Francisville, LA 70775 225-784-2831
josephcjr@bellsouth.net

Hooten, Col. & Mrs. Richard J., 6510 Scenic Hwy., Pensacola, FL 32504
850-969-0001 bdhooten@cox.net

Hoover, Arthur & Eva, 10155 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 225-766-0712
amhoover2@gmail.com

Houdek, Joyce & Andy, 226 Leeds Dr., Slidell, LA 70461-5060 985-726-5187
houdek226@charter.net

Huerkamp, Paul, P. O. Box 57, Pearl River, LA 70452
985-863-8462 kamellair@aol.com

Hultgren, Susan, 1949 Woodland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-927-2309
slphillips@cox.net

Hunter, Mathew & Cheryl, 4501 W. Cascade Rd., Wilmington, NC 28412- 6824
910-232-0304 mhunter@cape-fear.net

James, Trent & Kay, P.O. Box 14507, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4507
225-642-5233 trentonlj@aol.com

Jeffares, Liz, 6694 Hwy 145S, Meridian. MS 39301 601-483-1297

Jenus, Jr., Joseph & Hilma, 213 Eldredge Rd., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547 850-
862-4526 joejenus@gmail.com

Jimmy Walker & Leo Brown, 8600 Tutwiler Ln., Mobile, AL, 36619
251-633-7279 wjtiger40@aol.com

Jinks, Mike, 207 Edgewood Dr., Brookhaven, MS 39601
601-833-1392 gjinks@cableone.net

Jones, Fred & Sandra, 2056 Dunn Rd., Moultrie, GA 31768 229-941-5774
sandrayment@windstream.net

Kaberlein, Kay, 2070 Fred Martin Road, Summit, MS 39666 601-249-2967
kaberlein@myisat.com

Kahn, Jr., Dante & Patricia, 4855 Velasquez, Pensacola, FL 32504-9802

Kendrick, Sean & Laurie, 3012 Grant Quarters Circle, Marietta, GA 30068

Kendrick, Kevin & Alice, 3040 Milton, Dallas, TX 75205

Kendrick, Joycelyn, 323 Blair Lane, Unit FF2, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
985-788-5735 joycelyn.kendrick@gmail.com

Kendrick, Brian & Lisha, 1245 Cornerstone Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Kerr, Judy B., 3115 Windermere Dr., Pensacola, FL 32503-8207
850-434-0326 judy.kerr@cox.net

King, Bradford, 1530 Marendale Ln., Arcadia, CA 91006 626-445-8730
bdk@usc.edu

King, David, 3023 Kinsington Ave., Richmond, VA 23221 804-539-1818

Kooney, Nicholas & Molly, 542 Mele Place, Diamond Head, MS 39525-3328 228-
255-8160 nkooney6@cs.com

Krzymowski, Walter & Geri, 159 W. Pinewood Dr., Slidell, LA 70458-1346
985-643-1794 3_krismo@bellsouth.net

Kuehny, Jeff S., 9561 Bank St., Clinton, LA 70722

Ladner, Wallace & Dana, 2868 Concord Lane SW, Bogue Chitto, MS 39626
601-754-2694 danaLadner2000@yahoo.com

Landry, Art & Janet, 10522 Ferncliff Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70815-5213
225-275-2119 aplandry@bellsouth.net

Landry, Lauren & J. Wright, 4809 Iberville St., New Orleans, LA 70119 504-486-4951 llandry12@cox.net

Lane, Mary Jane, 8001 Nelson St., New Orleans, LA 70125 504-430-3776 mjlane54@gmail.com

Latta, Forest S., 4708 Old Shell Rd., Mobile, AL 36608 251-345-8212 forest.latta@burr.com

Lawrence, Steve & Gayle, 8030 Bernard St., Tallahassee, FL 32317 850-656-8348 slawrence61@comcast.net

LeBourgeois, Sally, 4705 Southshore Dr., Metairie, LA 70002-1432 504-455-9664 sallygator@gmail.com

Lefebvre, Al & Doris, 15226 Government St., Gulfport, MS 39503-2877 228-832-2405 dlefebvre0738@att.net

Lesmeister, Don & Joan, 4512 Marble Way, Carmichael, CA 95608 916-967-8420 joananddon@aol.com

Lewis, Bruce & Karen, P.O. Box 1963, Woodville, MS 39669 601-431-1935 karenlewis2@gmail.com

Litchfield, Brenda, 6163 Bayou Rd., Mobile, AL 36605 251-443-9929

Little, Darlyn, P.O. Box 517, Winnsboro, LA 71295 318-435-4670

Lowe, Rodney & Rose Mary, 61239 Roosevelt Rd., Slidell, LA 70458 985-641-0730 ewolr@aol.com

Mangham, William, 837 Bartholomew St., New Orleans, LA 70117 504-343-4628 willmangham@gmail.com

Manis, Kenneth & Pamela, 102 Wellington Lane, Slidell, LA 70458 985-645-9863 manisgroup@gmail.com

Manis, Steven, 1281 Homestead Ave. Gauthier, MS 39553 228-249-4115 steven.manis@mgccc.edu

Manuel, Dr. Maurice & Lois, 102 Augusta Dr., Broussard, LA 70518-6173 337-344-6434 drmauricemanuel@bellsouth.net

Maphis, Randolph, 7476 Skipper Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32317-8528 850-528-4795 crmaphis@comcast.net

Marcotte, Donald & Jenny, 11 Whipoorwhill Dr., Huntsville, TX 77340 936-295-8056 funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net

Massengale, Trent & Ann, 5305 Flanders Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-753-3825 atmass@cox.net

McCleary, Ray & Pat, 6006 Tremayne Dr., Mount Dora, FL 32757-8021

McConnell, Ruby E., 21 Snowbird Pl., The Woodlands, TX 77381-4153 281-292-5472

McQuiston, Jim, 6212 Yucca St., Los Angeles, CA 90028-5223 323-464-6792

Miller, Mark & Lisa, 11377 Coleman Rd., Gulfport, MS 39506-4138 228-832-7807 Imiller@mdrs.ms.gov

Mims, Richard, 409 Groves St., Lugoff, SC 29078-9343 803-438-9741 richardmims@gmail.com

Mizell, David & Mary, P. O. Box 721, Folsom, LA 70437 985-796-3209 mizellmary@aol.com

Mizell, Max, 929 Elmeer Rd., Metairie, LA 70005-1611 504-833-3970 mmizell1@cox.net

Mizzell, Oliver & Tyler, 117 Green St., Santee, SC 29142 803-854-3046
Mocklin, Patricia & Allen, 4528 Jasper St., Metairie, LA 70006 504-454-5820
 amocklin@gmail.com
Moore, Mickey & Mary, 172 US Hwy 19N, Americus, GA 31719-8200
 229-928-9416 mooremm@bellsouth.net
Moran, Len & Susan, 16097 Sweet Carolyn Rd., Biloxi, MS 39532
 228-392-3792 moranelect@gmail.com
Moran, Carl & Jaqueline, 7730 Manini Way, Diamondhead, MS 39525
 228-255-9332 drcmoran@aol.com
Morris, Theklaw, 579 Man O'War Circle, Cantonment, FL 32533
Moulton, Bob, 3970 Menendez Dr., Pensacola, FL 32503-3138
Nassar, Marilyn, 236 W. Woodstone Ct., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-766-5045
 felicianalady1607@ellsouth.net
New Orleans Camellia Club, 929 Elmeer Ave. Metairie LA 70005-1611
Nihart, David, P.O. Box 8101, Mobile, AL 36689-0101
 nihartlaw@gmail.com
Oates, James, P.O. Box 514, Daphne, AL 36526-0514 251-626-0203
Olsen, Gabriel, 6806 Kitty Hawk Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506-5633
 850-384-4186 1925angel@gmail.com
Oyler, Don & Carolyn, 4027 Oyler Rd., Mobile, AL 36695-8849
 251-666-4674 turkeycreek02@bellsouth.net
Park, Inja & Hong, 13325 S. Memorial Pkwy, Huntsville, AL 38503
 256-533-6700 hp@firstgrower.com
Peltier, Dr. James, 567 Highway 308, Thibodaux, LA 70301 985-447-3486
Pendleton, Neal & Lorraine, 218 Lourdes Lane, Covington, LA 70435-6119
 985-246-6688 neal218@charter.net
Perkins, Dr. Jimmy & Patti, 510 McNair Ave., Brookhaven, MS 39601-3746
 601-757-3785 perkins@sleekcom.com
Petznick, Dr. Paul G., 2541 Canterbury Rd., Mountain Brook, AL 35223
 205-871-7104 pgpelp@bellsouth.net
Phares, Gerald & Sharon, 22101 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs, LA
 70739 225-261-3123
Phillips, Charles & Geralynn, 53 Granada Dr., Kenner, LA 70065
 504-443-5950 cphillips@tuftsenergy.com
Piazza, Nick, 13 Glacier St., Kenner, LA 70065-1004 504-616-4378
 npiazzajr@gmail.com
Pigott, Mike & Della, P.O. Box 1639, Sulphur, LA 70664-1639
Poe, Lee & Dorothy, 807 E. Rollingwood Rd., Aiken, SC 29801-3374
 803-642-7297 leepoe@mindspring.com
Polozola, Michael, 22101 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
 225-261-3123
Rabalais, Gordon, 1030 A South River Dr., Arnaudville, LA 70512-3123
 337-754-8023 mrsarabalais@aol.com
Rawls, Bill & Cheryl, 7567 Tara Blvd S, Spanish Fort, AL 36527
 251-626-5982
Ray, Bill, 885 5th St., Florala, AL 36442 334-858-3392 bray@fairpoint.net

Read, Glenn & Jill, 1141 W. Fire Dept. Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6592 glennreadcamellianursery@yahoo.com

Richard, Bernadette, 5885 Lavey Ln. #117, Baker, LA 70714-4262 337-351-6825
prissynme.1@aol.com

Richardson, Homer & Lynn, 1545 Friendship Lane NW, Brookhaven, MS 39601
601-833-4126 homerrichardson@att.net

Richbourg, John, 99 Richbourg Rd., Monticello, FL 32344 850-997-3764
jrichb@nettally.com

Root, Becky, 2100 River Forest Drive, Mobile, AL 36605 251-479-0454
byroot@yahoo.com

Roy, Roger J. & Linda E., P.O. Box 177, Watson, LA 70786 225-664-9594
elroy001@bellsouth.net

Rumph, Wilbur & Mary, P.O. Box 273, Marshallville, GA 31057-0273
478-967-2308

Ruth, Michael & Ann, 726 High Plains Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810
225-767-1388 majbruth@cox.net

Sandifer, Charles & Letha, 2324 Palm Hills Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225-925-1573 ripcjs@cox.net

Sealy, James & Jo Anne, 703 Weatherly Rd. SE, Huntsville, AL 35803-1138
256-426-5998 jsealy@knology.net

Shelfer, Claudette, 8713 Cedarspur Dr., Houston, TX 77055-6624
713-468-6803 ckshou36@comcast.net

Shepherd, Donna, 4714 Park Place East, Charleston, SC 29405-4759
843-744-4841

Sherman, Charles & Sandra, 6013 Jesse Allen Rd., Milton, FL 32570-9592
850-623-6321 shermanacs@aol.com

Sibley, Joan, 8163 Fairlane Dr. , Denham Springs, LA 70726
225-665-8706 joanss3@bellsouth.net

Smelley, Jim, 4831 Devon St., Moss Point, MS 39563-2401 228-475-9736

Smith, Major Malcom D., 112 Heritage Hills, Pratlville, LA 36067-2002
334-366-5345

Soules, Peter & Lynnette, 22128 5th Street, Abita Springs, LA 70120-3740
985-893-2418 peterabita@hotmail.com

Southern Calif. Camellia Soc., 2531 2nd. St., La Verne, CA 91750-5002

Stroud, Bob & Erin, 2 Oak Grove Way, Slidell, LA 70458-8224
985-643-7156 rastroud@bellsouth.net

Surles, Milton & Claire, 11531 Echo Wood St., Houston, TX 77024-2718 713-
464-1163 c_r_surles@yahoo.com

Swanson, John & Dinh, 2607 NW 25th PL., Gainesville, FL 32605-2826 352-
672-2644 jndswanson@bellsouth.net

Taylor, Kay & Robert, 113 Blackbeard Dr., Slidell, LA 70461 985-643-7153
robertwtaylor@bellsouth.net

Terry, Martha, 6501 Sugar Creek Dr. N, Mobile, AL 36695-2734 251-633-3858
marthatterry@iamorrison.com

Thomerson, J. D. 111 East Aiden Ave., Valdosta, GA 31602 229-244-1050
jthomerson@valdosta.edu

Thompson, Warren & Cheryl, 602 Forrest Dr., Fort Valley, GA 31030-3612
478-825-2559 cherwart_2@att.net

Todes, Patricia, 39109 7th Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542-4538 813-708-6114
patodes@yahoo.com

Torres, Annette, P.O. Box 9134, Moss Point, MS 39562-9134
228-475-7595 tobtors@bellsouth.net

Trippe, Bonnie G., 105 Rue De Bourbon, Slidell, LA 70461-5231
985-290-2577 bgtrippe@aol.com

Vallery, Buddy, 53 Joe Guter Rd., Forest Hill, LA 71430-9238 318-446-0494

Vanis, Hal, 15711 CR 4255S, Henderson, TX 75652 903-854-4517

Vickers, F. Norman, 5429 Dynasty Dr., Pensacola, FL 32504-8583
850-484-9183 nvickers1@cox.net

Vicknair, Lynn, 1632 Steele Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-343-8708
lynnv@cox.net

Vinson, C. Roger & Ellen, 1905 E. Strong St., Pensacola, FL 32501
850-432-2593 roger_vinson@find.uscourts.gov

Vogelsang, Skip, 4760 Shannon Pl., Pensacola, FL 32504
850-776-7951 lbviii@cox.net

Walker, Jimmy, 8600 Tutwiler Ln., Mobile, AL 36619 251-633-7279
wjtiger40@aol.com

Warriner, Tom & Cindy, 222 Skyline Cir., Crestview, FL 32539-0378
850-803-1161 photocrafttom@cox.net

Watkins, Paul & Yu-hsia Kao, 1812 Old Boston Rd., Texarkana, TX 75501-0254
903-868-6298 pwatkins@valomet.com

Weeks, Thomas, 11281 Jake Pearson Rd., Conroe, TX 77304 936-441-3968
tommyweeks@consolidated.net

Weinmann, Amb. & Mrs. John G., 29 Nassau Dr., Metairie, LA, 70005
504-833-1609 vewjgw@sstar.com

Welch, Dr. & Mrs. Bobby, 4900 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-3043
225-975-0340 dwelch@lsu.edu

Wells, Kenny & Diana, 4841 Abella Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-927-8646 indiana@lsu.edu

Whiddon, Holmes & Connie, 120 Confederate Dr., Spanish Fort, AL 36527
251-626-5877 Greathouse128@aol.com

Williams, David & Sandra, P.O. Box 67, Roberta, GA 31078 478-836-4249
dsc@pstel.net

Witcher, Alice, 1934 Steele Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-1673
225-336-4147 cusnr@aol.com

Wolfe, Ron, 2019 Old Dominion Dr., Albany, GA 31721

Woodard, Dwayne, 500 4th Street SW, Birmingham, AL 35211-1145
205-324-5831

Wyatt, W. C., 511 Camellia Blvd., Fort Valley, GA 31030-4318
478-825-5165 wcwyatt@email.msn.com



Camellia Quiz

The following c. japonicas were introduced in the 1960s and 70s by Hody Wilson of Hammond, La. Can you name them? Answers on page 28.



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



In the Summer Garden

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
kennbc@cox.net



With the abundance of rain we have had in April and May, my camellias have had several flushes of new growth and look very nice. I hope all that new growth doesn't mean 'no buds.' There must be a lot of nitrogen dissolved in the rain because I can barely keep up with the grass.

This issue is a bit late getting to the printer as I had a number of distractions, such as a case of poison ivy on my face and hands, Highland Games, funerals, and lack of material. I had to scrap together a bunch of fillers to finish this issue, so please try to get some articles to me next time.



Camellia Quiz Answers

1. *El Rojo*; 2. *Jeneli*; 3. *Jerry Wilson*; 4. *Man Size*; 5. *Omega*; 6. *Vulcan Var.*

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

Valdosta Camellia Society

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/assets/pdf/Valdosta%20Newsletters%20-%202013-2014.pdf

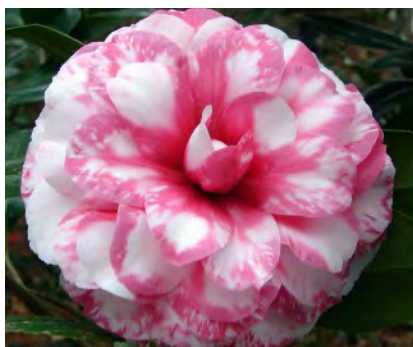
Does your club have a website? Send it to us and we will be glad to print it.



C. japonica "Gus Menard" 1962, by Ernest E. Judice, New Orleans, LA



C. japonica "Grace Albritton Starfire" 1980, by C. X. Copeland, Jackson, MS



C. japonica "William Forest Bray" 1960, by W/F. Bray. Pensacola, FL



C. japonica "Blood of China" 1905, by Stoutz Garden, Mobile, AL

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: _____

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Officers 2015 - 2016

President	Jim Dwyer 14040 Riverside Dr. Foley, AL 36535 (251) 988-1405 dwyer@gulftel.com
Vice-President	Roger Roy P.O.Box 177 Watson, LA 70786 (225) 664-9594 elroy001@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Michael Ruth 726 High Plains Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70810 (225) 767-1388 mruthmd@gmail.com
Secretary	Rebecca Christian 4634 Hyacinth Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (225) 930-9330 rebeccaschristian@gmail.com
Editor	Kenneth B. Campbell 3310 Fairway Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (225) 923-1697 kennbc@cox.net

State Vice Presidents

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*The Gulf Coast Camellian is published quarterly
by the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, Inc.
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Camellia japonica 'Alba Plena' 1792. Photo by Norman Vickers