

THE GULF COAST

# *Camellian*

Winter 2017

Volume 43 No. 1



*Camellia reticulata* 'Brooke Maphis' Homeyer 2008

*A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

# *The Gulf Coast Camellian*

Volume 43 No. 1 Winter 2017

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## *From the Cover .....*



*Camellia reticulata 'Brooke Maphis'*

This medium to large, semidouble to roseform double reticulata, pink with golden anthers, was introduced in 2008 by Dr. W. F. Homeyer of Macon, Georgia.

# President's Message

Caroline Dickson  
Poplarville, Mississippi



We all thank past president Jim Dwyer for his two years of service to GCCS. Jim capped his service with a great presentation of "The History of Camellias in the Gulf Coast Area" for the annual meeting which was well received.

Ready. Set. Go to camellia season 2016 or go back to recent happenings. I decided to do both.

When getting ready for November 2016 camellia shows, you will need a copy of the 2017 *Camellia Nomenclature* book that is a new release available directly from Amazon instead of ordering from the Southern California Camellia Society. The 2016 *Rules and regulations for Judges* of camellia shows is a recent publication of the American Camellia Society. An electronic accessory to the *Nomenclature Book* is an *Alphabetical List of Camellias* received by email authored by Geary Serpas which is received by email after you send a \$25 donation for Atlantic Coast Camellia Society to Treasurer Fred C. Jones. The alphabetized list of names leads to identification of the correct species for bloom entry. Updates to the list will be received by email. Along with the 1996 *Camellia Nomenclature Supplement* (aka little red book) of blooms no longer common in shows since 1950, you will be ready to judge the show or better understand what the judges are doing during the phases of the show.

I would like to go back to the 2016 GCCS meeting held in October at the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis, MS.

Thanks to Jana Harry and Steve Manis of the Mississippi Gulfport Camellia Society for volunteering to the host club for the convention. Thanks to Ann Ruth, Mike Ruth, and Lynn Vicknair for handling arrangements for facilities, registration, and finances. Dick Hooton and his auctioneers did a great job at both plant auctions and raised \$3,640 for the GCCS foundation which supplements publication costs of *The Camellian*. Bette Hooton did a wonderful organization job of the silent auction which raised \$1070. The raffle was a painting of a 'Royal Velvet' camellia japonica by Kaye Kaberlein of the Brookhaven club. Meg Charbonnet was the winner of the drawing for the



Hunter Charbonnet admires painting of 'Royal Velvet' by Kaye Kaberlein won by Meg Charbonnet.

painting. GCCS enrolled several new members from MGCCS who came to the education sessions on Tuesday.

Brenda Litchfield did a wonderful 200 slide presentation about camellia propagation in China from her latest trip.

*Continued on page 26*

# REVIEW OF GCCS 2016 MEETING FROM A FAR EAST PERSPECTIVE

*By John and Dinh Swanson, Gainesville, FL*

After a seven hour drive (From Gainesville, FL in the far East) we finally arrived at the casino. This was our second, and hopefully, not our last GCCS Meeting. As long as we are let in, we plan to be in Baton Rouge next year.

It was sunny and a little humid as we stepped from the car. Fresh sea air, we thought. Enter the casino and not such fresh air (plenty second hand smoke), but, after all it is a casino. Saw some folks that looked familiar and had name tags on, thank goodness, because while we did meet many new faces last year, we did not memorize all the names.

Hotel check-in was smooth, then to the GCCS check-in with the Ruths and others. Plants were visible, yes, we were in the right place again. This year we consider our plant exchange successful. We brought five and went home with four. That's progress. We greeted friends and freshened up in the room.



*Front row: Erin and Bob Stroud. Back row: John Swanson, Dinh Swanson, Jim Smelly and Walter Creighton.*



*Mike and Ann Ruth man the registration table.*



*Dinner at the Bridges*





*Dick Hooton presides over the auction, assisted by Mike Ruth and Mark Crawford in background and Jim Campbell below.*



*Incoming President Caroline Dickson and outgoing President Jim Dwyer.*



*John Grimm adds to his growing collection of approximately 10,000 camellias.*

*Aaaah - Bloody Marys and Mimosas.*



Dinner at the Bridges was the expected excellent food, and we were able to sit by Jim Smelley, Walter and Alice Creighton, and Al and Vicky Baugh, a treat, indeed.

A most enjoyable, yet raucous and competitive auction followed under the able leadership of Dick Hooton. Excellent! Dinh is from the Far East (Vietnam) and while living and working and raising the kids in the Middle East and South Asia, further developed her bargaining skills. She loves the auctions.

Next Morning. The continental breakfast - Pastries were good. Coffee ranks high and was a good candidate for "Weakest coffee in the World." Probably true of most casinos, as they want us to drink something stronger before going to the tables. Being of Scandinavian extraction, "Industrial Strength" coffee is my preference.

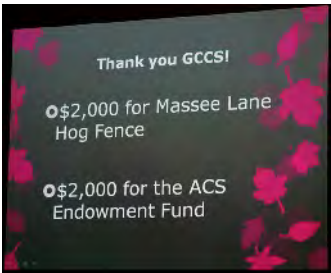
President Jim Dwyer conducted an excellent meeting that was short and to the point. The transition to incoming President Caroline Dickson was implemented smoothly and cordially. Our country as a whole could benefit by having more folks grow and love camellias.

Lubrication for the pending auction was provided in the form of Mimosas and Bloody Marys. It worked well as the auction was highly successful, thanks to the efforts of Dick Hooton, Mark Crawford, and Al Baugh.

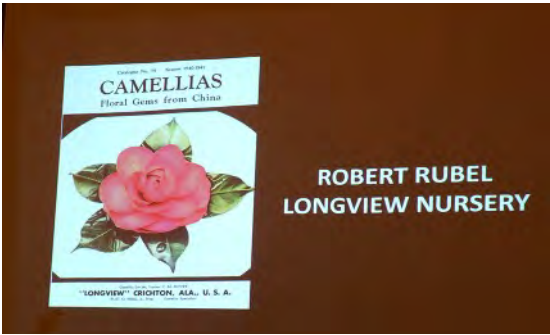
Lunch at the Epic Buffet was substantial and made it a bit of a struggle to stay awake for the ACS presentation, but Celeste Richard and Jim Campbell, aided by Camille Bielby kept the members involved and the conversations lively. Good Job.

Jim Dwyer presented one of the most thorough and interesting collections on the “History of Camellias in the Gulf Coast Area.” Indeed he went way beyond the norm, and must have spent countless hours researching the topic. We were very impressed. He sure did his homework.

Nurseryman John Davy spoke on the current status of camellias in landscapes and that there are encouraging trends that point to camellias being used more in landscape plans given their attractive foliage and cool season blooming which is unique in the plant world. His other pointers and suggestions for camellia



ACS President Jim Campbell and Executive Director (above) aided by Camille Bielby (left) of the ACS Staff review activities at the ACS Headquarters.



Jim Dwyer spoke on the “History of Camellias in the Gulf Coast Region”.



Jim and Eileen Dwyer.

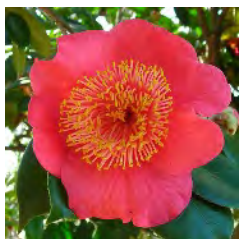




*Nurseryman John Davy gave the afternoon presentation on camellias in the landscape.*



*Dick and Bette Hooton. Bette managed the silent auction which netted \$1070.*



*Banquet Keynote Speaker Brenda Litchfield made a Powerpoint presentation on her visit to a camellia breeding nursery in China.*



culture were welcomed by all. By late afternoon the Silent Auction concluded, and it, too, was highly successful. This time it is Bette Hooton who gets the accolades. Excellent work.

We are nearly done. Hang in there.

The Banquet was excellent and we were fortunate enough to have Jim and Eileen Dwyer and Brenda Litchfield at our table. (one last digression) We met the Dwyers at the first ACS meeting we attended, in Norfolk, and somehow we felt an immediate connection that has remained to this day. You have known of their kind, caring and supportive manner for years, but it was welcoming for us as newbies at the time. Back on point, Brenda presented the Keynote Speech on visits she made to a Camellia Breeding Nursery in China. Her knowledge, excellent pictures, and clarity informed and entertained us all, engaging both newcomers and long time growers. It was a wonderful way to bring a great annual meeting to a close.



# *Grafting Camellias in Scotland - 19th century*

By Kenn Campbell

*Many of you enjoy trying different methods of grafting. Here is a method I had never seen and thought you may find it interesting or useful to you. In June 2016 I came across a digitized copy of an old book, "MEMOIRS OF THE CALEDONIAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. VOLUME FOURTH." EDINBURGH : 1824.*

*It was digitized by the Internet Archive in 2012 with funding from Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh <http://archive.org/details/memoirsofcaledv400cale>*

*I went through it looking for articles about camellias and ran across an interesting article on grafting. It was a variation on the old in-arching (approach graft) method of grafting that omitted the second potted plant. It seemed to have some possibilities for top-working or maybe summer grafting. The article follows:*

## MEMOIRS OF THE CALEDONIAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. VOLUME FOURTH.

EDINBURGH :

MACLACHLAN & STEWART, EDINBURGH AND SIMPKIN & MARSHALL,  
LONDON. MDCCCXXIV.

p. 133. MR. DUNBAR ON A NEW  
MODE OF GRAFTING CAMELLIAS  
Account of a new Mode of Grafting  
Camellias. By George Dunbar, Esq. Rose  
Park.

Read 10th March 1825.

Of the exotic plants that have been introduced into this country during the last fifty years, none surpass in beauty and variety the genera *Camellia* and *Erica*. The former, it is well known, is a native of China and Japan, and the latter of the Cape of Southern Africa. From twenty to thirty different varieties of the *Camellia* have, within these few years, been brought from China ; and it is probable that many more exist in that country, which have not yet become known to Europeans. The common method of multiplying the different kinds, consists in in-arching or grafting a double [flowered] upon a single [flowered], by bringing the two plants together, and joining two branches of each kind, having previously cut out an equal

portion of the bark and wood of both, so as to make them unite exactly. But as this process is sometimes inconvenient, and scarcely admits of more than one or two double shoots being grafted on a single at the same time, I have for several years practised a different method, by which almost any number of doubles may be grafted upon a large single stock, without the smallest inconvenience, and with little chance of failure.

The process of engrafting may be begun when the young shoots in both the single and double begin to swell, which they seldom fail to do, after being about a week or a fortnight subjected to the heat of the vinery. It may be premised, that the branch of the single to be engrafted upon should be nearly of the same size as that of the double, because the adhesion first takes place in the bark of both, and if they do not correspond, they will not readily unite. Suppose a single consists of six branches, and a different variety of



doubles is to be grafted upon each, the first thing to be attended to is, to select a clean, healthy shoot of last year's growth, from each double, about six or eight inches in length, and cut it off by a joint. The incision in the single should be as near the separation of the branches from the stem as possible, and should be about an inch and a half in length. The bark on the side cut should be entirely re-moved, with a small portion of the wood ; and the same must be done with the double, so that the incision in both may exactly correspond. It is also advisable to tongue them, as I have generally observed that the adhesion first takes place where the tongues unite. The incision in the double shoots should be made about an inch or an inch and a half above the under part, as nearly the whole of that portion of the wood is to be immersed in a small phial constantly filled with water, to keep it in a growing state. This phial must be tied firm to the branch of the single, to prevent it from falling off.

When the branch of the double is applied to the single, care must be taken that the bark of both correspond, and that the cuts are of equal length. They must then be bound as firm and close as possible with a string of matting, and some moss (hypnum) wrapped round, which should be kept constantly moist. The portion of the double below the junction must then be immersed in the phial, and if this is kept constantly full of water, so as to promote the growth of the double, the adhesion will take place in a month or six weeks. It is, however, advisable to allow the phial to remain some time longer, and not to remove the bandage till the double has made some growth. The sketches in the plate annexed exhibit the process in its different stages.

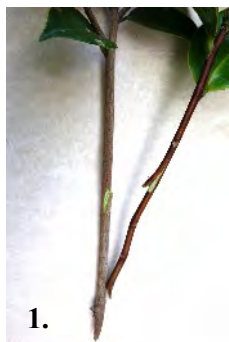
\*

**[See illustration of grafting procedure on the following page.]**

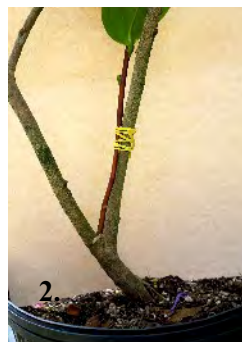
*I decided to try it for autumn grafting first then try again in February and June.*

*Some updating of materials was done. Grafting tape was used in lieu of "string of matting" and "hypnum moss" (whatever that is) and a water-pic was substituted for the "phial of water." However, tying with a dead daylily leaf covered with grafting tape did seem to have some possibilities .*

*I gathered a few branches so I could practiced making the necessary cuts to get the hang of it. A very sharp knife is necessary. I found it difficult to make the cuts as shown in the illustration and get the cambiums to line up. I decided to try a variation which was to 1. make a sloping cut about halfway through the branch and an opposite sloping cut in the scion. I scraped the outer bark off the inserted wedges to assure cambium contact.*



1.



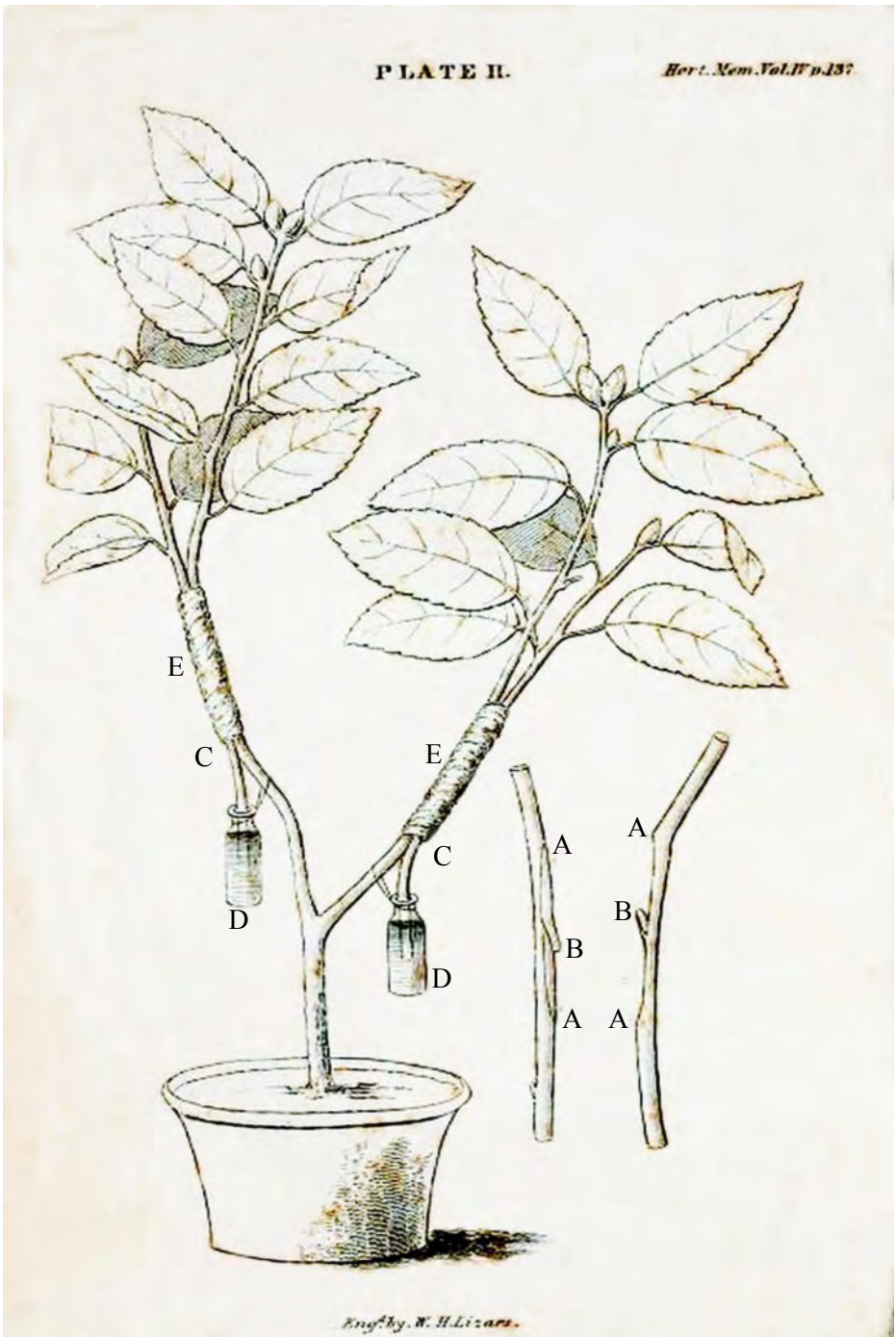
2.

*2. Scion inserted and bound with rubber strip.*



3.

*3. Graft union wrapped with grafting tape and water pick slipped onto stem of scion.*



**Explanation of Plate II.**

- A-A, Length of the incision in the single and double.
- B-B, Tongue of both.
- C-C, Incision of the double shoots above the under part.
- D-D, Phials filled with water.
- E-E, Strands of matting.



## *From a Gardener's Journal*

**By Lynn Richardson**

Brookhaven, Mississippi

### DEBUTANTE SEASON

**T**ime for new debutante seasons, as we get our pretty darlings groomed and dressed for the parties and balls for them this year. I am sorry we had to miss the GCCS Conference last month, as it is the preliminary event for the season. We get to socialize with the other judges, renew old friendships and make new ones. We get the chance to look over the plants for sale at the auction and revitalize our love for these lovely things the Lord has given us for our pleasure. We renew our determination to do better at taking care of our charges and trying to get back to the original garden, so to speak.

We did not get to attend the conference, but a friend who did brought back some lovely darlings from Mark Crawford's nursery. I will have had them long enough for entry in the shows. We had more additions to the "morgue" due to the usual suspects, deer and drought. The summer was lovely and wet, but since the first of September, we have had no rain and most of the state is under a burn ban. Some of our babies have bloomed a bit early this year, starting the first of October. One of the higos, Alba Fimbriata, Shiro Bokuhan and Arajishi. Ari is still in his pot and until we get some decent moisture will remain there, along with some other plants we got this year.

For some time I have suggested things like making an inventory of your plants and taking photos of them. Now we are actually doing that and sticking to it. Camellias are such rewarding and wonderful plants to grow. They are lovely

even when not in bloom and when they are they are spectacular. Several years ago the city of Brookhaven planted them in town and they have impressed natives and visitors alike. Some of us do try to see that they are kept in good condition, pruning out die back and dead wood. We have been asked if it is O.K. to collect some of the seeds later and we tell them yes. Can't tell what they will get but I really have never seen an ugly camellia.

Back to our yard, we hope to do more site planning for spacing and color. Not to match like colors, but to maybe alternate early, mid and late season bloomers to give color to more spots.

We have already started planning for our show in February, since we have gone to a one day show it is so much easier. We can get our supplies earlier, get our helpers and judges lined up and so on. Our food chairman (Patti Perkins) has already got the caterer lined up and everyone will be really pleased. We just hope to have lots of blooms and lots of judges and hope to see y'all there.



Our morning glories are truly glorious this year.



# In Memorium

## WILL GREEN MANGHAM (1925-2016)

Will Mangham, past president of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, an active member of the New Orleans Camellia Club, and a former board member of the American Camellia Society, passed away at his home in New Orleans on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. He was 91.



Will was born in Shreveport and grew up in the north Louisiana town of Coushatta. In World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps. "My twin brother Jack and I landed in France soon after D-Day and then we were transferred to Portugal, a neutral country in the war. We were stationed in an office building

in Lisbon and nobody wore uniforms. There were Germans, Italians, French, British, and Americans walking the streets in plain clothes. It was a wild and intriguing place for two nineteen year old brothers from Coushatta, Louisiana."

After the war, Will worked for Pan American Airlines for fifteen years with assignments across the United States and the world. In 1964, he joined the Louisiana Tourist Development Commission, the state's first effort to promote itself. Will has been credited with starting the organized initiative to market the state of Louisiana as a leisure travel destination. Will later served as director of marketing for Rosedown Plantation in St. Francisville, director of marketing at the LSU Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge, and a marketing consultant for Basin Street Station in New Orleans.

Will always had a memorable way of describing things. Here are a few of his quotes.

After winning his first camellia award in Baton Rouge, Will humbly stated, "I just planted the bush, it was God that made it bloom."

"I am a camellia buff, not a camellia nut!"

"Once you plant camellias, it's fascinating to wait and see what they will look like. Camellias are sort of like raising children, and I raised two boys and two girls. None of them look alike and none of them act alike. Camellias remind me of people."

Will, it was great knowing you. We miss you.

- *Dennis Hart*

## HEMINGBOUGH MEMORIAL SERVICE



A Memorial Service was held in the Amphitheater at Hemingbough in honor of Will Mangham. Many friends including host Arlen Dease, Gerald Phares, David Floyd, Walter Imahara, and Michael Valentino told of their fond memories of time spent with Will.



*David Floyd shares memories of Will as Arlen Dease and Gerald Phares look on.*



*Gospel singer David Dawson sings for the gathering.*



*Walter Imahara tells of naming the camellia grove at Imahara Botanical Garden in memory of his friend Will.*



*Michael Valentino remembers Will.*



*Host Arlen Dease welcomes visitors to the luncheon.*



*The 'Second Line' wave their handkerchiefs as they march to luncheon at Hemstead Hall.*

# *Again, Another Season*

by Bette Hooton



When Dick and Roger V. left this morning for Jim Smelley's to "dig grafts," I walked back into the kitchen and spotted my blender and its contents. The contents are colorless, so I had not noticed it on other occasions—I was told there had been many other occasions!

At the wonderful GCCS Conference in October, I heard something said that made me sit up straight. Celluwet—a pharmaceutical (that word makes me cringe!) grade gelatin that makes Gib easier to use—is colorless, odorless; and it does not contaminate kitchen appliances. Mark Crawford said this. My blender in my kitchen has Celluwet in it which has been living there for several days. Well, maybe not 'living'—residing. Tell me, why are all these outside things now coming into my kitchen! I don't understand: he has the garage where his extra refrigerator and his odoriferous fertilizer 'reside'. And speaking of that fertilizer...

The car was packed and ready to hit the road for the Hollywood Casino when I noticed a lot of space set aside for something.

"What is going back there?" I innocently asked.

"Nothing really. I've just got a few things I need to bring for Hunter," says he, speaking softly so I really can't hear him.

"What?" I asked.

"Nothing. Just extra space." OK. Hmm.

So we meet Mark at the Shade House, PCC's beautiful camellia storage area, on our way up the Interstate. And, you guessed it, Dick starts putting plants in the

back of the SUV. OK, fine. I know what that means—the a/c on frigid so the plants are comfortable. Only on the road for a few minutes, and suddenly, I become aware of a noxious odor. I look at Dick.

"Do you smell that?" I ask.

We have been married for 51 and a



half years, and he says to me, "No-o-o, I don't smell anything."

Then I knew what happened: those plants must have had that fertilizer on them. And the car was less than frigid: all the way to Hollywood.

Back to Celluwet: so it truly is a harmless gel. However, I am thinking about setting up a spot near a plug in the garage for the blender, which has now become HIS blender. No way am I mixing pesto in that blender.



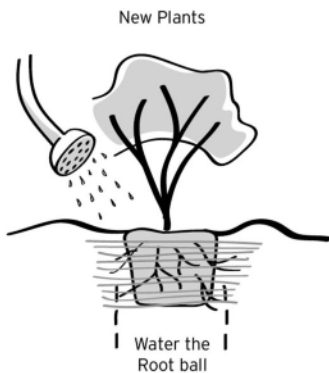


# Drought Culture

Reprinted from *Pensacola Camellia Club Newsletter*, Louise Seits, Editor.

**With the lack of rain throughout the month of October and now into November let's ask Dr. Mack Thetford what we should be doing for our camellias?**

**M**y personal suggestion is for plants to receive at least 5 gallons of water per week within the area of the root zone during this temporary drought. If the leaves of the plants are drooping I would water daily until the leaves begin to look normal again. It would help preserve water in the root zone to reapply some mulch. My personal feeling is that you probably can't over-water the plants during this drought. I have watered my dry plants by hand that have no irrigation system - twice over the past two weeks - and they recovered very quickly after the water was applied.



Younger plants have less root area from which to gain the water they need and the potting mix will be very dry during this month so more frequent watering is necessary for them - at least a gallon of water per gallon of pot size at each watering.

If the plant is water stressed the gib may not be as effective. Often time's

water stress may cause poor floral bud development or result in abortion of the flower buds.

Feeding is not a good idea as long as the plants are water stressed. Fertilizers are salts. And the higher salt level in the



Mack Thetford is an associate professor based at the UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center.

dry soil will interfere with water uptake. This is normally not an issue when the plants are at normal moisture levels. The reality is that a drought stressed plant is just trying to stay alive so there will be no new growth occurring. With no growth there is no need for the nutrients in the fertilizer. So water now and deal with fertilization later.





Skip Vogelsang shows the plants that he gibbed at the September Pensacola Camellia Club meeting to show off the blooms results after 4 short weeks.

*photo by Norman Vickers*



Carol Selph looks over a plethora of camellias at the Wiregrass Camellia Club show.

## AROUND



Christi Hankins (right) presented Pensacola Camellia Club certificate of appreciation to Trumin and Debbie Brown for all of their hard work they do for the club. Debbie had to be called from the kitchen to receive this award at our October meeting.

*photo by Norman Vickers*



Norman Vickers took home a **Blue Ribbon** from the Pensacola State Fair this October for this beautiful japonica 'Kiku-Toji'. It is a variegated, small formal double and an early bloomer. According to the nomenclature book, it originated in Yokohama in 1895.



Wiregrass Camellia Club Show, Boston, GA,  
Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. Over 1200 blooms displayed.



BRCS members Aletha O'Quinn, Don Williams and Leo Broders move last years cuttings into gallon pots.



B. R. Camellia Society members pot-up this years cuttings in 4" pots.



# THE REGION





# CAMELLIA TRIVIA

Sixth in the “Did You Know? Series  
Camellias in Movies  
By Ruby G. Campbell, Ph.D

## Did you Know. . . .

that Camellias often play a pivotal role in movies? In addition to the classic tale of Marguerite and Armand told in the many versions of *La Dame aux Camellias* (“The Lady of the Camellias”) which have appeared on Broadway, in film, and on the Bolshoi stage (see Winter 2015, vol. 41, no. 1 issue), camellias have found their way in movies made around the world.

Not unexpected are films from the Orient. Camellias play a major role in Akira Kurosawa’s 1962 black & white film, *Sanjuro*. The story of *Sanjuro* begins with nine samurai discussing their plan to rid their clan of corruption. Superintendent Kikui is entangled in illicit activities. Chamberlain Mutsuta, well aware of this fact, begins to gather evidence to use against Kikui. But the chamberlain’s nephew, Izaka, impatient with the delay, inadvertently tips his uncle’s hand which immediately puts Mutsuta in danger.

Indeed, the old Chamberlain is abducted by Kikui and his traitors and the his wife and daughter are imprisoned. It is left to Sanjuro, the hero of the tale, to rescue all three. Sanjuro convinces a

servant from the house where the ladies are kept to get the guards drunk, allowing the samurai to free the women after which they hide in a house next door to the superintendent’s compound nick-named “Camellia Mansion” because of the a large number of camellia trees planted in the terrace.

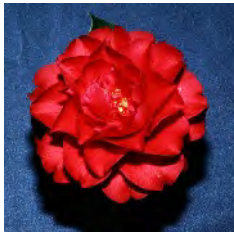
Upon returning to their home base, Mutsuta’s daughter notices shreds of parchment in the stream flowing from the “Camellia Mansion” next door. The parchment is that which Izaka had given his uncle just before his disappearance. So it is clear that Mutsuta is next door! A plan to rescue Mutsuta is made. When it is time to attack, Sanjuro will drop a load of camellias in the stream leading from the traitor’s home next door.



The unfolding plot is an excellent light-hearted adventure story with subtle humor and excellent photography. One scene requiring a single camellia blossom to fall into a rushing stream was difficult to pull off. Originally the crew considered using piano wire but they were afraid the light glinting on it would show up on film. A female costume designer suggested unraveling a woman’s stocking and using the nylon due to its strength and invisibility. It worked!

The use of camellias in the rushing stream was quite impressive, inasmuch as every single one of those flowers was made by hand, an amalgamation of various species since real camellia leaves didn't look so good on camera. Some were even painted the darker color to show up vividly enough to suit Kurosawa's demanding specifications. They made many more flowers than are even seen on screen, just to get things right.

Another Japanese film, *The Scarlet Camellia* (*Goben no tsubaki*), directed by Yoshitarô Nomura in 1965, opens with a fire at the villa of merchant Kihei Musashiya. Three bodies thought to be Musashiya, who had been ill with tuberculosis; his wife, Osono; and their only daughter, Oshino, are found. Six months later, a



musician, notorious as a ladies' man, is found stabbed to death with a silver hairpin; beside his body is a scarlet camellia. Soon another murder takes place under identical circumstances. The victim this time is a doctor who had become wealthy treating women who dared not go to legitimate physicians. On a tip from a police informer, Officer Aoki trails a female suspect, but as he is convinced that she is innocent he does not arrest her. Meanwhile, another murder occurs, and Aoki's suspicions about the girl are again aroused. He learns that the girl is Oshino, Musashiya's daughter, and that the corpse assumed to be hers was that of Kikutaro,

one of her mother's lovers. After setting fire to the villa, Oshino, to avenge her father, killed the men with whom her promiscuous mother had affairs. Oshino eludes capture and next murders a teahouse handyman who had supplied many of her mother's lovers. Oshino intends to kill one more man before she surrenders to the police, but she cannot bring herself to stab him when she remembers that her mother had once said that he was Oshino's real father. Oshino gives herself up, satisfied that she has gained revenge. She feels remorse, however, when she learns that her real father's wife hanged herself. A sad tale indeed.

Turning to American films, we have *Now, Voyager*, a drama starring Bette Davis, Paul Henreid, and Claude Rains, directed by Irving Rapper, and based on the 1941 novel of the same name by Olive Higgins Prouty. In 2007, *Now, Voyager* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

*D r a b* Charlotte Vale (Bette Davis) is an unattractive, overweight, repressed spinster whose life is brutally dominated by her dictatorial mother (Gladys Cooper), an aristocratic Boston dowager whose verbal and emotional abuse of her daughter has contributed to the woman's complete lack of self-confidence. It is revealed that Mrs. Vale had already brought up three sons,



and Charlotte was an unwanted child born to her late in life. Fearing Charlotte is on the verge of a nervous breakdown, her sister-in-law Lisa (Ilka Chase) introduces her to psychiatrist Dr. Jaquith (Claude Rains), who recommends she spend time in his sanitarium. Away from her mother's control, Charlotte blossoms. The transformed woman, at Lisa's urging, opts to take a lengthy cruise rather than immediately return home. On board ship, she meets a married man, Jeremiah Duvaux Durrance (Paul Henreid), who is traveling with his friends.

Charlotte and Jerry become friendly, and in Rio de Janeiro the two are stranded on Sugarloaf Mountain when their car crashes. They miss the ship and spend five days together before Charlotte flies to Buenos Aires to rejoin the cruise. Although they have fallen in love, they decide it would be best not to see each other again.

When she arrives home, Charlotte's family is stunned by the dramatic changes in her appearance and demeanor. Her mother is determined to once again destroy her daughter, but Charlotte is resolved to remain independent. Charlotte is deflated after her chat with her monstrous mother. How can she maintain her newfound mental health and habits if her mother insists on treating her as she always has? Just when she really, really needs a boost, one arrives in a plain box.



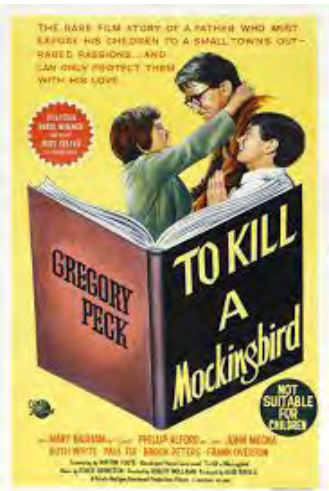
Inside is a trio of glorious camellias (a reference to her pet name Camille) from Jerry. And Charlotte is reminded that she is loved and wanted. She pins the



camellias to her new black dress and goes to set some new rules with her mother.

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, a 1962 American drama film directed by Robert Mulligan was based on Harper Lee's 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name. Starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch and

Mary Badham as Scout, the film, considered to be one of the best ever made, received overwhelmingly positive reviews from critics. A



box-office success, it earned more than 10 times its budget. The film won three Academy Awards, including Best Actor for Peck, and was nominated for eight, including Best Picture.

The film's young protagonists, Jean Louise "Scout" Finch (Mary Badham) and



her brother Jeremy Atticus "Jem" Finch (Phillip Alford), live in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the early 1930s. The story covers three years, during which Scout and Jem undergo changes in their lives. They begin as innocent children, who spend their days happily playing games with each other and spying on Arthur "Boo" Radley (Robert Duvall in his film debut), a recluse. Their widowed father, Atticus, has a strong belief that all people are to be treated fairly, to turn the other cheek, and to stand for what you believe. Through their father's work as a lawyer, Scout and Jem begin to learn of the racism and evil in their town, aggravated by poverty; they mature quickly as they are exposed to it.

Next door lives Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose (Ruth White), an elderly, seemingly bitter woman about whom Jem harbors intense emotions. Jem and Scout have been raised by their father to judge people solely on the basis of their behavior, and not even on that basis unless you know that person's history. Such is the case with Mrs. Dubose who is known for her animosity towards the children as well as for her virulently racist comments. Jem describes this elderly neighbor as "plain hell," and it's not hard to see why, given the personal nature of Mrs. Dubose's verbal assault on the Finch children. Finally, Jem loses his temper,

takes a baton from Scout and destroys all of Mrs. Dubose's camellia bushes. As punishment, Jem must go to her house every day for a month and read to her. Scout accompanies him and they endure Mrs. Dubose's abuse and peculiar fits, which occur at the end of every reading session. Each session is longer than the one before. Mrs. Dubose dies a little more than a month after Jem's punishment ends. Atticus reveals to Jem that she was addicted to morphine which had been given to her as a prescription and that the reading was part of her successful effort to combat this addiction. Atticus gives Jem a box that Mrs. Dubose had given her maid for Jem; in it lies a single white



camellia, a "Snow-on-the-Mountain," an enduring symbol of her humanity. As Atticus explains to a crestfallen Jem, "I think that was her way of telling you – everything's alright now, Jem, everything's alright. You know, she was a great lady."

And lastly whatever happened to *Regrets of White Camellias*, Cybill Shepard's 2011 drama? Mak Grgic, Croatian classical guitarist, is said to have provided music for this film. Lists of others who were involved with this "highly regarded independent film" including Lenny Von Dohlen (one of the



bumbling bad guys in Twentieth Century Fox's *Home Alone III*) abound, but nothing about the film itself and its story, other than this bit of dialogue:

“‘Madam,’ said I to her, ‘you are like that flower called the camellia, which a Jesuit has lately brought hither from China. It is delightful to the eye, but contributes nothing to the smell. You madam, are beautiful, but you lack that fragrance of beauty, which we call love.’ Having pronounced these withering words, I looked steadily at her. She smiled.

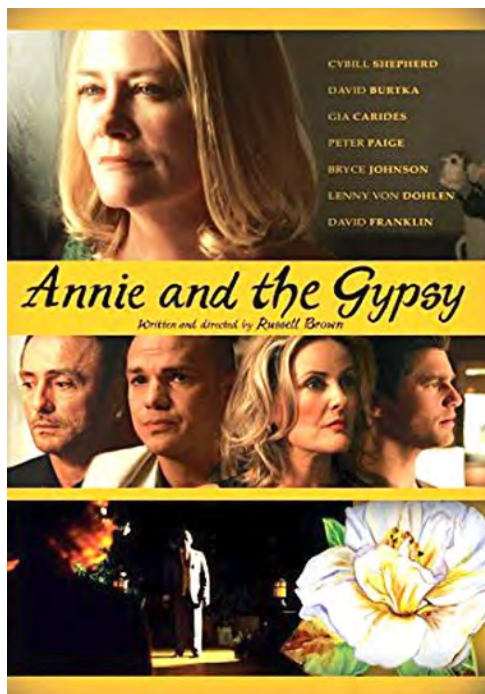
“‘You are not far from the truth,’ said she: ‘I am the Camellia,’ – and then she walked proudly into the ball-room.”

No credit for this film appears on Shepard's list of film credits. No synopsis appears in any of the sources searched. But then, the AHA moment: the title was changed to *Annie and the Gypsy*. Director Russell Brown stated that although he personally liked the original title, *Regrets of White Camellias*, “that title wasn't communicating with people. So the compromise was between me and the audience. I will rename my movie if it will make it easier for people to see it and understand it. What was important to me was that people saw the movie, because what's important is in the movie, not in the title.”

He adds, “The movie always had this theme of camellias and non-camellias, in terms of people. Camellias are sensitive and vulnerable and live in the shades of grey of life. Non-camellias are more practical and hard-edged and avoid the unknown. And camellias and non-camellias often end up in relationships together. I think it's really this camellia and non-camellia thing that made me choose this group of characters. Every character in the movie fits into one of those two categories. I'm not sure they are really types beyond that—they're supposed

to be characters with their own lives and spirits. I wasn't trying to make a general statement about LA or the movie business.”

*Annie and the Gypsy* is on iTunes, which may be why it was difficult to find any information about the movie. It was premiered at the Seattle Film Festival in June, 2012, and Osiris Entertainment



distributed the film in Spring, 2013. Cybill Shepherd as Annie, plays a middle-aged woman who throws a festive Spanish-themed dinner party, filled with wine and poetry readings. Unfortunately, nothing goes as smoothly as planned - and each guest seems to experience a pivotal crisis. Soon a mysterious stranger turns up and creates unforeseen complications - and the night turns into a series of possibilities for redemption, recollections, visions of the future, and much more.



# FERTILIZING CAMELLIAS

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA



A camellia is a slow growing tree and not a shrub like we often try to treat them. An established plant will ordinarily grow about 4"-8" each season, with the flower buds and growth buds for the next season at the end of each stem. Fertilizing programs are different for plants in the ground and for plants in containers. Requirements are also different depending on cultural practices and age of plants.

The type fertilizer you use is important. Ideally you want the nitrogen to be released over time and the other elements to be present when needed for growth and blooming. Commercially available formulations labeled for camellias are okay to use especially if one of the ingredients listed is cottonseed meal. Some growers mix their own fertilizer using cottonseed meal plus a balanced chemical fertilizer. Some growers are successful using only cottonseed meal. The cottonseed meal breaks down over time, slowly releasing nitrogen and other nutrients. It is very safe to use and relatively inexpensive to buy. Be sure that the cottonseed meal you get has not had salt added to it to be used as cattle feed. This is not suitable to use on camellias.

Since the introduction of polyon coated fertilizers some years ago (such as Osmocote, etc.) many growers like the convenience and effectiveness of using these fertilizers. The plastic coated granules release the nutrients over time instead of all at once. A formulation called "Nursery Special" is a convenient way to get the slow release feature on the nitrogen as well as the various trace elements needed for good growth and blooming. It is safe to use and available in different package sizes at reasonable cost.

A young camellia growing in a container will respond to frequent fertilizing by putting on as many as 3 growth stages each year. It probably will set very few flower buds during these vigorous growth spurts. So, if your objective is to grow a larger plant quickly, then fertilize 3 times a year (February, April, June) with a good time release nitrogen product with trace elements ("Nursery Special", "Grower's Supreme", etc.) Regular watering is also required. Sasanqua cuttings can be grown to 3' -4' grafting size in two years using this process.

A container grown camellia plant which is at desired size in "final" size container, should be fertilized in February and June with less fertilizer each time than you would use for a smaller plant. Annual pruning of the plant also reduces the amount of fertilizer needed. The objective is to get a good growth in spring and not stimulate additional growth in the summer with more nitrogen.

Camellias in the ground or in beds should be fertilized in February each year for the first several years until the mulch has broken down and the plant is established. Once established, the plant can be pruned about 10-15% each year. If kept well mulched, it will require very little, if any, supplemental fertilizer. The composting mulch provides enough nutrients and the pruning stimulates the replacement growth. When you cut flowers to enjoy or give away, cut the stem back to a main branch, then finish the pruning in the spring.





# *Camellia Show Dates 2016-2017*

## **8 October 2016 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society**

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

## **5 November 2016 - Wiregrass Camellia Society**

Boston Baptist Church, 143 S. Main St., Boston, GA

## **12 November 2016 - Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society**

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

## **12 November 2016 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society**

Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main St., Byron, GA

## **19 November 2016- Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society**

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

## **3 December 2016 - Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA**

Slidell City Auditorium, 2056 Second St., Slidell, LA.

## **10 December 2016 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL**

First Methodist Church, 5Wright Place, 80 E. Wright St., Pensacola, FL.

## **7 January 2016 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA**

Southern Hotel, 428 E. Boston St., Covington, LA.

## **7 & 8 January 2017 - Gainesville Camellia Society, Gainesville, FL.**

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

## **14 & 15 January 2017 – Camellia Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL**

Colonial Mall, Bel Air, Mobile, AL.

## **14 January 2017 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX.**

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

## **28 January 2017 - Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA**

Theodore Roosevelt Middle School, 3315 Maine Ave., Kenner, LA

## **4 February 2017 - Brookhaven Camellia Society**

Brookhaven Recreation Department, Highway 51 N., Brookhaven, MS

## **11 & 12 February 2017 - Baton Rouge Camellia Society, Baton Rouge, LA**

Rural Life Museum, 4560 Essen Lane at I-10, Baton Rouge, LA.

## **11 February 2017- Southeast Alabama Camellia Club, Dothan, AL**

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

## **11-12 February 2017 - Wiregrass Camellia Society**

Trinity Anglican Church, 325 West Jackson St., Thomasville, GA

## **14-15 January 2017 - Tallahassee Camellia Society**

Doyle-Conner Administration Building, 3125 Conner Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL

## **18-19 February 2017 - North Georgia Camellia Society**

Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Piedmont Park at the Prado, Atlanta, GA

## **25 February 2017 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Huntsville, TX.**

Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center, 1400 19<sup>th</sup> St. Huntsville, TX

## **25 February 2017 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Fort Valley, GA**

Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA.

If you have a show date or judging school date that you would like listed in *The Camellian*, please send them to the editor at the address on the inside back cover.

# In the Winter Garden

*By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA*



**W**inter blooming season is finally here and we can enjoy our flowers and attend shows to enjoy flowers of others. But it is also time to continue our winter chores of re-potting, transplanting grafting, watering and mulching.

We have had a couple of months of very dry weather and camellias need ample moisture to bloom properly. So soak your plants with 1" of water every week that you don't get enough rain. Check container grown plants often for lack of moisture.

Planting can be done from December through February if you prepared your planting holes in October. If you didn't do this earlier, do it now and the site should be ready in January or February.

Collect mulching materials (leaves, pine straw, etc.) and keep your plants well mulched.

## December

Don't overlook the pleasure you can share by giving camellia plants or books as Christmas presents. A gift membership in your local camellia society, the Gulf Coast Camellia Society (see page 30) or the American Camellia Society will also be appreciated by your camellia friends.

It has been another good season for sasanquas. We often get so involved with the Japonicas and reticulatas that we tend to ignore the sasanquas and other species. They are particularly well suited for hedges or borders as they bloom early in the season, are profuse bloomers, have increased tolerance for full sun, beautiful foliage and resistance to root rot. Some of the newer varieties are 'Leslie Ann,'

'Kanjiro,' 'Star Above Star,' and 'Alabama Beauty.'

## January

Camellia flower petal blight can be a real problem in our gardens. The disease affects only the flower and appears as brown spots on the petals. These usually enlarge until the entire blossom is blighted. Infected flowers fall to the ground and the fungus produces hard, resting bodies called sclerotia. These remain in the ground for years and under proper weather conditions they germinate and release spores into the air. These spores are carried by the wind and cause infection when they contact a flower. The most effective control so far is prevent introduction of the fungus into uninfected areas and break the life cycle. All spent blooms should be gathered and destroyed at least twice a week to prevent formation of the sclerotia.

January is a good time to do minor pruning while you are cutting flowers from the bush. If the branch is a weak one or will have no growth bud on it, then cut it off back at the main branch or the trunk. Don't leave a branch with leaves on it without growth buds; it is likely to die back anyway. You are better off to prune it away at the time you cut the flower.

If you have a plant with a scale problem, you can spray with oil emulsion such as Dormant Oil or Ultrafine Oil spray. Another good product is Neem Oil, also sold as a rose spray. Look for the active ingredient to be Neem Oil. (For example, Neem Oil is now 'the active ingredient in "Triple Action" spray by

Fertilome which also contains a miticide and a fungicide.) As with other oil sprays, use in mild weather periods to avoid damage to the leaves. Always use as directed by manufacturer.

Get started with your grafting this month. The best days for grafting in 2017 to take advantage of any help the moon phases may be are Wed-Sat Jan. 4-7; Fri-Mon Feb. 3-6; and Sat Mar. 6. If you are inexperienced at grafting contact your local camellia club about a demonstration or hands-on assistance in learning.

## February

February is usually the month of most profuse blooming of camellias in this area. The early bloomers are finishing, the midseason varieties are in full swing, and the late season bloomers are starting. We seldom have hard freezes in February to

interrupt the blooming. Although the blossoms don't seem to last as well at this season, the number of blooms opening every day offsets that problem. Outdoor plants seldom need watering at this time, but check container grown plants if rainfall is sparse, and water as needed.

It is a good idea to prepare now for the future by digging those seedling plants that sprout up under your camellia plants. Bare root them, prune the tap root a bit and plant them in a pot in good potting soil on in a preferred garden location. In a year or so they will be grafting size and you can graft desirable varieties on them and get a good plant "for nothing." Of course, you may want to grow the seedling until it blooms first and then graft on if it is not a 'special' bloom..



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## ***President's Message*** ..... *Continued from page 3*

Brenda is also coauthor with Forrest Latta of the Third edition of Camellia Garden Field Guide which gives comprehensive information on camellia culture and care.

The educational focus of GCCS is achieved by personal attendance at sessions of the annual meeting, in print through publication of the Camellian, and electronically through archives of the Camellian posted on the GSSC web site. Camellia popularity follows cycles which have to adjust to lot sizes, water conservation, availability, site properties, etc. Please remember to send articles to Kenn Campbell for publication in the Camellian.

An increasing number of members in camellia societies have also completed Master Gardener training which includes myself since 2002 in Pearl River County Mississippi. The combined training is invaluable in understanding the entire

home yard and maintenance requirements like atrazine to control grass weeds will stunt or kill camellias with a root zone far out into the grass when the camellia was pruned to force it to stay in a planned space.

I am Caroline Dickson of Poplarville, Miss. Do not confuse me with Jim Dickson's wife Carolyn who is active in Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Now you know there are two of us. We do not know if we are related due to loss of records on my side. I am retired from nursing. I began my camellia club activities in New Orleans in the early 1990s. I am active in Northshore Camellia Society in Covington, La. I can be reached by phone at 601-403-8269. My email is

[mcdpopcamelliagccs@gmail.com](mailto:mcdpopcamelliagccs@gmail.com).





# *Camellia Quiz*

Name these early blooming japonicas. Answers on page 29.



#1

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#2

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#3

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#4

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#5

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#6

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# *Camellia Websites*

## **American Camellia Society**

[www.americancamellias.org](http://www.americancamellias.org)

## **Atlantic Coast Camellia Society**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org)

## **Baton Rouge Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/brcamellias](http://www.facebook.com/brcamellias)

## **Birmingham Camellia Society**

[www.birminghamcamellias.com](http://www.birminghamcamellias.com)

## **Brookhaven Camellia Society**

[www.homerrichardson.com/camellia](http://www.homerrichardson.com/camellia)

## **Camellia Society of North Florida**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia\\_Society\\_North\\_Fla.html](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html)

## **Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX**

[www.coushattacamelliasociety.org](http://www.coushattacamelliasociety.org)

## **Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety](http://www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety)

## **Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Gainesville%20CS.html](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Gainesville%20CS.html)

## **Gulf Coast Camellia Society**

[www.gulfcoastcamellias.org](http://www.gulfcoastcamellias.org)

## **Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/Mississippi\\_Gulf\\_Coast\\_Camellia\\_Society](http://www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society)

## **Mobile Camellia Society**

[www.mobilecamellia.org](http://www.mobilecamellia.org)

## **Northshore Camellia Society**

[www.northshorecamelliasociety.org](http://www.northshorecamelliasociety.org)

## **Pensacola Camellia Club**

[www.pensacolacamelliaclub.com](http://www.pensacolacamelliaclub.com)

## **Valdosta Camellia Society**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/assets/pdf/Valdosta%20Newsletters%20-%202013-2014.pdf](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/assets/pdf/Valdosta%20Newsletters%20-%202013-2014.pdf) (Awe heck - just google it)

# Editor's Notes

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA  
kennbc@cox.net



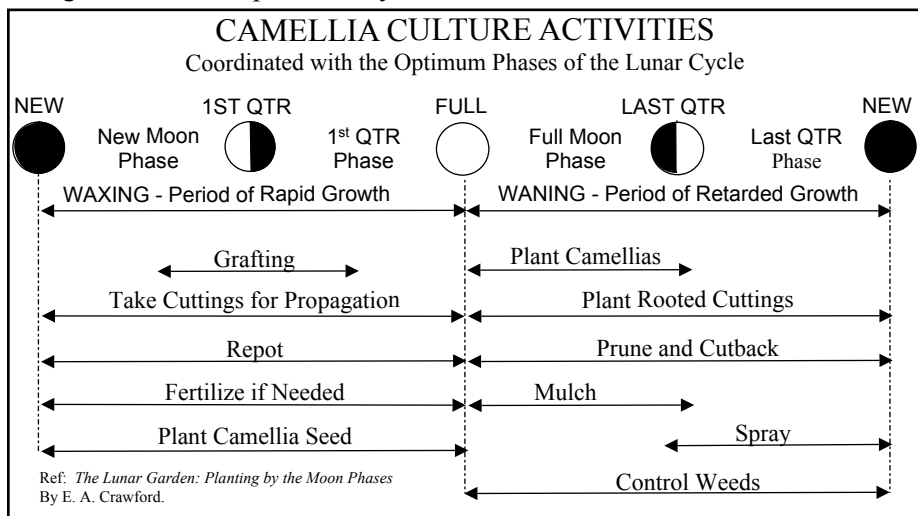
## Super Sasanqua?

This photo shows a row of sasanqua seedlings that I lined out along the back of a new camellia bed two years ago and most of them are now ready to graft. Note the variation in size. Also note the one in the center. It is six feet tall with a caliper of 3/4". To grow from a 4" seedling to a six foot plant in two years makes it sort of a 'super sasanqua.' I have rooted two dozen cuttings to grow and see if this is a permanent condition or just a freak of its environment. A couple of years will tell.



## Best Grafting Days

The best grafting days occur a few days on either side of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the moon. First quarter days for this grafting season are 5 January, 4 February and 5 March. The following chart shows optimum days for other camellia culture activities.



## Camellia Quiz Answers

1. 'Takanini' 1989 Haydon, New Zealand
2. 'Debutante' 1900s Magnolia, Johns Island, SC
3. 'Daikagura' 1891 Japan
4. 'Joshua E. Youtz' 1915 Star, Sierra Madre, CA
5. 'High Hat' 1954 Cooldige, Pasadena, CA
6. 'Arajishi' 1891 Japan





*C. japonica "Evelina" 1959, by Hodie Wilson, Hammond, LA*



*C. japonica "Cile Mitchell" 1992, by Hulyn Smith, Valdosta, GA*



*C. japonica "Kay Berridge" 1979, by Paul Gilley, Grandridge, FL*



*C. japonica "Helen Bower" 1964, by T. O. Bower, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# *The Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

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Texas	Claudette Shelfer

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*C. x vernalis* 'Yuletide' Nuccio's 1970