

THE GULF COAST

# *Camellian*

Autumn 2020

Volume 46 No. 4



Photo Mark Crawford

*C japonica 'Phillip's Choice'*

*A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

# The Gulf Coast Camellian

Volume 46 No. 4 Autumn 2020

## Contents

Cover - c. japonica 'Phillips Choice'.....	page 1
Contents.....	page 2
President's Message .....	page 3
Update: 2020 GCCS Annual Meeting.....	page 4
Something about Seedlings - Part 1 .....	page 6
Mobile Botanical Gardens is Blooming .....	page 9
'Guest Star' Causes Frenzy for the Brookhaven Society .....	page 12
Gardens Make Memories .....	page 14
Eudora Welty and Her Garden .....	Page 15
Around the Gulf Coast.....	page 16
In Search of the McIlhenny Camellias .....	page 18
Grafting Season 2020 .....	page 22
Joseph Leo Horil - 100 .....	page 25
GCCS Summer Board Meeting 2020 .....	page 26
Camellia Crossword.....	page 27
Editor's Notes.....	page 28
About the Gulf Coast Camellia Society.....	page 30
GCCS Officers.....	page 31
Back Cover - C. japonica 'K. Sawada' .....	page 32

Visit our website at [www.gulfcoastcamelliasociety.org](http://www.gulfcoastcamelliasociety.org)

And our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/gulfcoastcamelliasociety](http://www.facebook.com/gulfcoastcamelliasociety)

## From the Cover .....



### *Camellia japonica* 'Phillip's Choice'

This 12-year-old *C. japonica* chance seedling first bloomed in 2012. Medium size anemone to full peony, dk red with yellow anthers and pink filaments. Early to midseason. It was originated by Lillian Gordy of Ocala, Florida and registered 2018 by Mark Crawford of Valdosta, Georgia and propagated by Loch Laurel Nursery of Valdosta, Georgia.

# President's Message

**Dennis Hart**

New Orleans, Louisiana



I hope everyone has stayed healthy over these last few months and your camellias are healthy too! The summer heat should be ending soon. I am always ready for October to arrive with some cooler weather.

We held our summer Gulf Coast Camellia Society (GCCS) Board meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> in Gulfport, Mississippi. The main topic of discussion was our annual GCCS conference in Saint Francisville, Louisiana on October 19-20<sup>th</sup>. It was decided once again this year that we have sufficient funds in our investment account to waive the \$30 dollar registration fee. The Board hopes the conference will take place in October as planned. We will make a decision by the beginning of September whether or not to proceed.

This will be my final President's Message. I will hand over the reins of the GCCS leadership to Joe Holmes in October. Joe is a very capable leader, an active member of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, and he is organizing the GCCS conference in Saint Francisville. I look forward to working with Joe now and in the future.

Serving as GCCS President has been a lot of fun. I have especially enjoyed attending the camellia club meetings and getting to know the members. Thanks to all the club presidents, officers and members across the Gulf Coast for keeping the camellia clubs interesting and enjoyable.

Over the last two years, GCCS membership has increased and there are more funds in the investment account. I would like to thank the GCCS Board Officers (Joe Holmes, Jim Campbell, Ann and Mike Ruth, Caroline Dickson) and the State Vice Presidents (Vickie Baugh, Mark Crawford, Dick Hooton, Eddie Martin, Lisa Miller, Jim Smelley, and Hal Vanis) for all of their efforts in making the Board a success. Also, a big thank you to Kenn and Ruby Campbell for producing our outstanding publication *The Camellian* every quarter and to Jim Dwyer for managing our GCCS website.

In summary, thanks to all of you for being members of GCCS. Keep learning more about camellias, recruit some new members, have fun, and stay healthy!



*Helen Bower pen and ink by Pamela Scholz*

# Update: 2020 GCCS Annual Meeting



By Joe Holmes, St. Francisville, LA

Planning continues for our October 19 and 20, 2020 Annual Meeting in St. Francisville, LA. Hoping that our current health crisis will have subsided, our meeting/party is tentatively scheduled to be held at Hemingbough, a meeting and event center with accommodations in a garden setting just outside the town of St. Francisville.

The site contains a camellia garden dedicated to Will Mangham, a previous Baton Rouge Camellia Society and GCCS Member. The grounds also boast a Japanese style garden designed and constructed by Walter Imahara, a local landscaper and garden designer. Lakes, historic structures, parklike gardens, an amphitheater, and peacocks



make Hemingbough a scenic destination.

Accommodations in the area include a limited number of rooms on the Hemingbough grounds, a local Best Western Hotel, and numerous bed and breakfast opportunities. Sights in and around St. Francisville include two State Parks, antebellum homes, historic churches and cemeteries, and a picturesque sleepy small town.

Although Louisiana Covid-19 statistics make national news daily (and not in a good way) our small, rural parish has been fortunate. Not including the maximum-security prison located on 22,000 isolated acres in a corner of our parish, we have lost only three people to the virus. So, you will probably be safer here in St. Francisville than at home.

*Fountain and Pool >*





^

*Small church relocated to Hemingbough in memory of the owner's father..*

Gazebo >



*Walter Imahara's work*

v



茶

# Something About Seedlings – Part 1

By John Grimm, Metairie, LA

Seedlings became a curiosity before Camellia Heaven became a reality. Volunteer seedlings could be found anywhere camellias were growing in the wild, or at least semi-wild. Whether growing in the neutral ground at Canal Boulevard, the Hody Wilson Garden, the McIlhenny's Jungle Gardens or behind the Atkins' home in Shalimar (and many other places visited over the years), large or small, they represented something new with potential or just simple in a variety of colors. One property in Mississippi had hundreds of seedlings that cried out to be noticed until they were cut down to harvest the pine trees under which they were growing. Luckily, many have begun growing back from their roots (and several were grafted for future consideration). Seedlings are the hope for a future; it's what keeps many camellia people going late into their 80s and 90s – to see what a seedling might produce.

Before Camellia Heaven was purchased, I had accumulated several hundred seedlings from a myriad of sites and was looking forward to what they might become; however, Katrina ended the lives of nearly all of them. So in starting over, seeds were collected in July from anyone who would share theirs and planted in pots; the quest for something new, different, special, or just something “pretty” was on. One year 5,000 seeds were gathered. But, Camellia Heaven

offered a playground of seedlings that had been growing for years as well as ones that got established due to Katrina.

A word about Camellia Heaven for those unfamiliar with it. Camellia Heaven began as Webb Hart's Camwood Nursery. Webb sold grafted and other plants there and had about 2,000 plants in the ground. When we purchased the property, I actually counted all the plants and varieties (about 600). I had already collected about 300 of those, so in terms of varieties, there would be 900 varieties there. Since 2005, the year of the purchase, the collection there has grown to over 5,000 varieties and is a true camellia preserve. Each year more varieties are added through grafting, purchase and in the case of seedlings, naming the new intriguing varieties that have sprouted up all over.

But let's take a step back for a moment. Camellias produce seed pods that look like green cherries to nearly apple sized. They can be collected as the pods split in late July and August, or harvested from the pods by hand once they have matured. The special feature, to the consternation of commercial growers (forcing them to grow from cuttings or grafting), is that most seedlings are plain singles – white, pink, red and variegated; however, sometimes the DNA lines up to produce a vast array of different color shades, combinations



*Camellia seed.*

and even shapes. These seeds can be planted in anything from damp soil to various potting mixes. Our elders might have thrown the seeds down by a small stream or placed them near a fence post. The seeds may germinate nearly immediately, or could take as much as a year. They start pushing out roots and stems. If you don't want the plant right where it is growing; you need to dig it up, trim off the tip of the tap root and hope it develops enough new root hairs to continue to grow.

About a year ago, nearly 125 seedlings were gathered by literally yanking them out of the ground. Some had plenty of root hairs, others did not or were damaged. These were all planted after trimming their tap roots. After a year in the ground, 80 were alive and growing new leaves and are established in the bed created for them. If you don't cut off the tap root tip, the tap root will continue to grow and feed the plant and root hairs will be few. Removal and re-establishment is unlikely to be successful. I once followed a tap root of a beautiful formal double red seedling for several feet down and laterally until it ran into a neighbor's yard. I had to cut it off. The plant did not survive despite trimming its size, feeding with root hormone, etc. If I had not had it grafted, the seedling would have been lost.

I was offered a Granthamiana seedling that was about 6 feet tall and had been growing about 6 or 7 years. After digging about 4 feet down along the tap root, I accidentally severed the tap root as it turned laterally where I was digging. That seedling had no root hairs and therefore faded rapidly and was lost. At any rate, once you have a growing seedling, it's all just a matter of time until you obtain a bloom (usually 4 to 16 years – you really can't speed things along

much other than growing under a grow light that stays on 18 or so hours a day, or grafting it and hoping it develops sooner). Of course, if you find wild seedlings that have already bloomed and they are special, you can graft or take cuttings to reproduce the plant and not risk losing it by digging it up.

It is said that if you ONLY grow great varieties, you are more likely to obtain a great seedling. In gardens that have mixtures of all shapes, sizes, and species growing in close proximity, the wild seedlings could be just about anything. If you harvest seeds, you can mark the seed parent, but you will never know the other parentage (bees gather pollen in about a 2 mile radius area and other pollinators also have large foraging areas); the pollen could have come from a camellia anywhere in the vicinity (not just your garden).

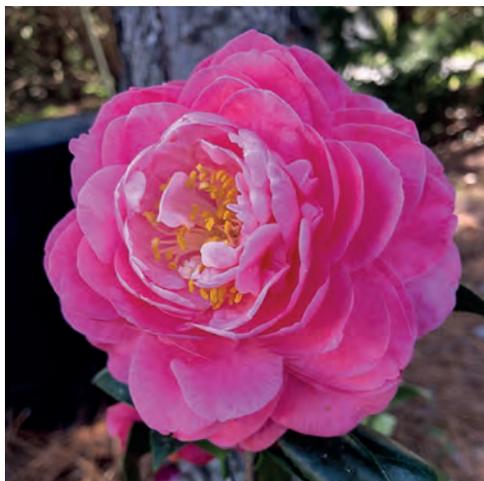


*C. japonica 'Atkins' Gift' 2004 John Grimm, Metairie, LA*

So the Grimm's first registration was a gift from Ed and June Atkins registered as 'Atkins' Gift.' It pre-dated Camellia Heaven, so the original plant was planted at our home in Metairie. It did survive Katrina, but because so many camellias in that yard died because of soil contamination, it and other special plants were removed. Some, including it, were successfully transplanted (although it took

them many years to overcome the trauma of the hurricane). A graft of the 'Atkins' Gift' fared far better and dwarfs the original plant by several feet of growth. The registration process was not complicated, but required taking many pictures and learning something about color shades, and of course, shapes and sizes. That registration was a special event. Many people have admired the blooms and requested plants which have been reproduced for them from cuttings. As it is a mid to late bloomer, only a few blooms ever make shows. This means show people have never been very

his daughter, lost in childhood, who was also memorialized as 'Brenda Ann Hart' (also by the Zerkowskys)). It, and another named for his son, were both registered



*C. japonica 'Brenda Ann Hart' 1978*  
Tammia Nsy, Slidell, LA



*C. japonica 'Camwood's Brenda' 2018* John Grimm/ Webb Hart, Bush, LA



*C. japonica 'Mister Tim' 2009*  
Webb Hart, Carriere, MS

interested in it; it appeals to home gardeners and the same people who love 'Pink Perfection.' Camellia Heaven yielded several registrations thereafter. Webb Hart tapped several for future naming. One selected was a white similar to 'September Morn' (Yohei Haku). This one bloomed more in mid-season and was named 'Webb's White' for Webb (he already had a bloom named for him by the Zerkowskys - 'Mayor Webb Hart'). A beautiful peony Webb said he would like to be named some day as 'Camwood Brenda' (the Camwood nursery name and

in the last few years. 'Mr. Tim,' a dark black red late bloomer, was always a visitors' delight at Camellia Heaven "Friends and Family" days. But the gem of the Camellia Heaven seedlings was named after my wife passed away as 'Stephanie's Heavenly Star.' Check next issue for it and other blooms named for Stephanie.



# Mobile Botanical Gardens is Blooming

By Brenda Litchfield, Mobile, AL



The Mobile Botanical Gardens (MBG) is alive and, well....recovering. As you know, we had a close call a few months ago when we thought we would have to close. But things are looking up all over the gardens!

The South Alabama Horticultural and Botanical Society was founded in 1970 and in 1974 leased 100 acres from the City of

Mobile to create a botanical garden. The City still owns the property and until a few years ago continued to operate its greenhouses there. The city is contributing funds for capital improvement which has allowed us to continue our progress and expansion.

In the past two years the City has turned over the greenhouses and six more acres of land to MBG. This newest project is Magnolia Hill and is the propagation and art center. Funded by generous donations from numerous foundations and individuals, it has become a showcase for the gardens. Our most recent grant of \$30,000 was awarded in April by the Daniel Foundation.

Magnolia Hill has an art center, greenhouses, a conservatory, a holding area, a rare Japanese Maple collection, beehives, and would not be complete without chickens! We will use honey and

eggs as fundraisers. The greenhouses will allow us to propagate and grow more plants for our spring and fall plant sales thus increasing revenue.

Our spring plant event has made a fantastic transition to online sales! A new portal was created, ordering is easy, and pick-up is a breeze. We have combined it with our Friday garden lunches.

Now all you have to do is drive through and get your plant order and a tasty lunch in one stop without getting out of your car. Also online is our Artful Garden giftshop with a great selection of eclectic items from soap to jewelry and art for the garden.

Current events have necessitated that several of the events and classes MBG offers to be postponed. MBG is a regional center for botanical art, writing, and photography. Currently online is *The Art of Staying Home*. Students from the

botanical art classes submit their artwork online to share. There is also an online sharing of photos of members' gardens which is great for getting new ideas. The writing and photography classes will resume in the future.

MBG worked with the University of South Alabama and a marketing class. Students gained real-world experience creating a marketing



*Beehive fundraiser*

for the gardens and their ideas were innovative and many will be implemented. Students visited the gardens and came up with great ideas to increase membership and attendance with events and programs.

We are currently negotiating with the city on an agreement for funding and operations. Right now, it is pending because of societal events. Our board and staff are working diligently to continue the progress, expansion, and preservation of our beautiful 100 acres in the heart of Mobile. From the longleaf forest to the Japanese Garden, to the camellia WinterGarden which is an International Camellia Garden of Excellence, MBG is a gem for the City of Mobile.

Summer is here and Mobile Botanical Gardens is up and running with beauty around every corner. It is doing well and is back into full swing even with the current shut down. The membership has increased tremendously, and the public is more interested than ever. The gardens are growing, and the future looks bright.

There is a lot more going on at MBG than space here allows. For more information see our web-site [mobilebotanicalgardens.org](http://mobilebotanicalgardens.org)



*Azalea Rhododendron Garden*



*Herb Garden*



*Japanese Maple garden*



*K. Sawada WinterGarden*



*C. japonica 'K Sawada' 1940 K. Sawada, Overlook Nsy, Mobile, AL*



*C. japonica 'Sawada's Dream' 1958 K. Sawada, Overlook Nsy, Mobile, AL*



*Botanical art class*



*C. japonica 'Sawada's Mahogany' 1971 K. Sawada, Mobile, AL*



# ‘Guest Star’ Causes Frenzy for the Brookhaven Camellia Society

Bill Perkins, President, Brookhaven Camellia Society

I recently happened upon a photo of the camellia japonica 'Guest Star' when browsing the seemingly endless examples accessible these days on the net. It struck me as just the addition I needed to complement my garden and humble collection of our favorite plant. When I posted the bloom on Facebook, there was an immediate frenzy by others to also acquire this beauty to add to their gardens as well. Funny how such a bloom when presented alone can cause such a stir.

As luck would have it the “go to” source for the Brookhaven Camellia Society, the Mizell Camellia Hill Nursery in Folsom, LA had twenty 3 gallon size left which I immediately reserved. Once I announced the good news those 20 were snapped up in the blink of an eye and soon after another 36 desired if we could find them. I hate to disappoint so many camellia enthusiasts but so far every nursery I have contacted is sold out of these. So if anyone knows of a source or sources of the 'Guest Star' or even another that is very similar please let me know.

I have already taken 2 scions to propagate from the one I got before planting. Actually one of the 20 was broken during the transportation to Brookhaven so I took this one as mine and couldn't miss the

opportunity to propagate the broken portion. All good! No waste. A small problem became an opportunity.

Now that I had a list of the first 20 to confirm and another of those still wanting this distinctive plant it was a matter of when to get them. The dreaded covid-19 had arrived so unessential travel not encouraged. Hence, the lucky ones had to wait until the situation improved. By early May I drove down to the nursery with a trailer in tow then returning to Brookhaven with the 20 'Guest Star' camellias. They



*C. japonica 'Guest Star' 1974, J. R. Moore,  
Hampton, VA*

were very quickly collected from our family home, “Woodleigh.” I encouraged all to plant them immediately. We may have a special trophy or award for the 'Guest Star' winner in a few years at our annual show with so many growers.

The membership and reach of the BCS goes beyond Brookhaven these days as will these 20 camellias. There will be many in and near Brookhaven including one at the Frank and Kay Burns Memorial Camellia Trail at the Homestead at Brookhaven Nurseries but others further away. Some will be planted at Charlotte Englund's Mississippi country home near Lake Lincoln for her to enjoy when visiting from Texas. Linda McGeehee will have three planted at her event venue



*Mary Mizell & Bill Perkins at the Mizell Camellia Hill Nursery*



*Betty Ann Perkins & Charlsie Estess at Woodleigh*



*Sandra McDavid Martin with her 'Guest Star'*



*Melanie Waller happy with her camellia*

mansion and estate “Rose Gate” in Rankin County for countless visitors to appreciate during the years ahead. Others will be planted at the homes of Dave and Molly Mandel and Michael and Cecile Harris at Lake Caroline in Madison County. Even Natchez will soon have a 'Guest Star' purchased by chef extraordinaire Rene Adams there. Should we source more we have requests from as far away as BCS members Mike and Jennifer Burt in McCullough near Atlanta. Surely there are more somewhere for those on the ever growing waiting list. I have made many inquiries to other nurseries only to learn those who had this japonica are sold out. Please let me know asap if or when you locate more of the 'Guest Star' or any similar japonicas. It's nice to see such enthusiasm for a camellia.

It looks like the BCS membership will be expanding due to this experience since so much attention from the quest to find a source and the procurement and distribution. With so many camellias hardy enough for our growing zone there are sure to be other “must have” varieties out there to promote. Please feel free to suggest others. Let's keep the “fire burning” so more and more will catch the camellia passion. Our thanks to David, Mary, and Page Mizell for coming through with 20 for us and looking forward to more generations from their nursery!





# Gardens Make Memories

by

Kay Clark, Baton Rouge, LA

“I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses . . .”<sup>1</sup> is what my father hummed as he tended his roses. He also had plum trees, mimosas, irises, and a variety of annuals. One plant seemed to get special attention: a dark green bush with glossy leaves that was much taller than I was at about two years old. I was Daddy’s girl and tried to take every step he took. I realize now that all the attention to that bush probably involved mulching, fertilizing, spraying, and just observing.

My father was a carpenter as well as a gardener. He made me a little wooden stool with the inscription:

*“This little stool belongs to Kay.*

*Her Daddy made it just this way.*

*It helps her reach the things she couldn’t, and sometimes reach the things she shouldn’t.”*

How prophetic were those words.

One day when he was at work, I took my own tour of the garden. Examining the special green bush, I was horrified to see that it had developed something terrible. Big ugly greenish-brown balls were hanging from the ends of each branch. Wanting my father to be proud of me, I decided to remedy the situation.

I got my little stool and a blue Maxwell House® coffee can (we always had these around the house to save screws, nails, etc.) and headed out to the green bush. Standing on the stool, I was able to strip almost every ugly ball off the bush. Every - LAST - ONE along with a good bit of foliage.

To this day, I can see the blue coffee can and hear the Plink, Plunk, Thud of the buds hitting the bottom of the can.

When my father came home, I proudly presented him the can and its contents. Instead of pleasure, all I could

see in his face were grief and disappointment. He didn’t get angry, or scold, or punish me. He gave me my first lesson about nature and growing things. Guiding me to the bush, he explained about camellias and how those ugly buds, with his help and God’s, become magnificent flowers.

We toured the garden, and he explained about other plants and how they grow and produce. A few weeks later, we returned to the camellia bush to see how the two or three buds I could not see or reach had opened into beautiful flowers. No punishment, but a life-lesson on parenting and gardening that I live with now, nearly 70 years later.

Eudora Welty<sup>2</sup> (1909-2001) said that we make our gardens, but that they also make us. Perhaps they do this by teaching us patience, disappointment, and nature’s beauty, among many other life-lessons. They also make memories.

My father left us on a January day – cold, but sunny. Three hot-house tomatoes were on the kitchen window sill which he had placed there in the sun in hopes of their ripening, knowing if he ate them, he would not taste the taste of summer. But the ‘Alba Plena’ beside the porch was bursting with blooms, showing that everything has its season.



That camellia of my childhood is gone, and so is the house. I still come to the garden, but I am never alone.

1. Miles, C. Austen. “In the Garden.” 1912.

2. Jackson, Mississippi, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Optimist’s Daughter*, 1973.

# Eudora Welty and Her Garden

by

Ruby G. Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA



Born in Jackson, Mississippi, to Christian Welty and Chestina Andrews, Eudora's life was rich with a loving family, devoted friends, travel, varied experiences, and a legacy of writing and photography.

A graduate of the Jackson Public School system, she spent her collegiate years at the Mississippi State College for Women, the University of Wisconsin where she received her bachelor's degree, and graduate study at the Columbia University School of Business. Work experiences included radio station WJDX, the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, and serving as a Publicity Agent for the Works Progress Administration. She moved to New York, began writing -- her first publication being a short story, "Death of a Traveling Salesman."

When her father became ill, she returned home where she chose to remain after his death. Eudora focused on her writing while her mother, Chestina, threw herself into gardening. Chestina's talent for gardening was evident in her handling of space. The garden was divided into three outside rooms furnished with plants of varying heights: shrubs behind floral borders backed up by a screen of broad leafed evergreens and conifers.

A collection of camellia japonicas mixed with camellia sasanquas took center stage in the tree-sheltered front lawn near the porch. Both women shared a lifelong love for these flowering shrubs. Eudora often sent a box of fresh-cut camel-

lias to her agent in New York. "I sewed the stems to the inside edges of the boxes so they wouldn't move about and hit each other," she told a reporter in a 1994 interview. "I would send only four or five blooms at a time on overnight express. I'd wrap the stems in wet cotton. In those days, you could go down to the train station and put things on the express and they'd get to New York the next day."

Eudora did all of her writing in an upstairs room, looking through the windows at the winter-blooming camellias below, "their white and magenta blossoms floating on glossy leaves." She produced seven distinctive books in fourteen years -- photographic books as well as her stories. Personal tragedy, however, halted this rate of produc-

tion and a full decade went by before she resumed her writing. It was then that her Pulitzer Prize winning *The Optimist's Daughter* (1972) featuring rare autobiographical details was written.

The gardens became a private sanctuary for Eudora as the years went on. On the understanding that the house would be turned into a literary house museum after her death, she donated it to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. It has since been designated a National Historic Landmark and the garden has been restored featuring roses, daylilies, nandinas, camellias, azaleas and other Southern horticultural favorites.



*Eudora Welty House and Garden, 1119 Pinehurst St., Jackson, MS. Built by her parents in 1925.*



*John Grimm joined the Brookhaven Camellia Society at the Governor Hugh White Mansion and Estate in Columbia, MS. Shown her with Ann Simmons, who with her husband Bill Simmons own the estate.*



*'Masked Tag Team' Joe Holmes, Alethea O'Quinn, and Lynn Vicknair pruning and replacing missing name tags at BRCS workday.*

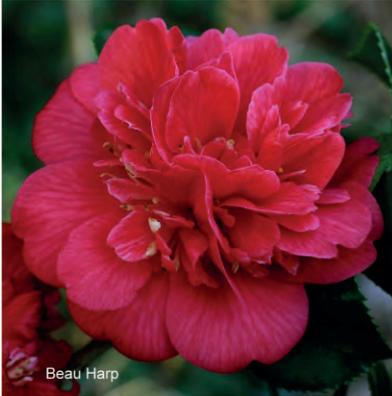


*Picture of unknown camellia with glorious variegated foliage sent by Bette Hooton, Pensacola, FL*

AROUND THE



*Brookhaven Camellia Society member Melanie Waller receiving her raffle prize, a camellia plant of course, from the BCS annual show.*



*'Beau Harp' (l.) - a camellia from Pensacola, not to be confused with Beau Hart (r.) from New Orleans, a grandson of Dennis Hart*



*'La Peppermint'* as seen at the Norfolk Botannical Gardens by those attending the ACS Annual Meeting. photo by Dennis Hart



Mark Crawford, Randolph Maphis, Howard Rhodes and Steve Lawrence socially distanced sticking Kumagai nagoya cuttings used for rootstock at Loch Laurel Nursery.



Pensacola Camellia Club grafts growing at Jim Smelley's garden.



The recently completed Leon and Lois Silver Educational Camelliariae at the American Camellia Society Headquarters.



# In Search of the McIlhenny Camellias

By Jim Campbell, Covington, LA



Florence Crowder, Joe Holmes and I have been working at Avery Island to try and tag all the camellias that McIlhenny imported and planted in Jungle Gardens. This has been a daunting task, but slowly but surely we are making progress. One day last year we discovered a camellia that we realized was called 'Amazing' and was one of the seedlings named by him. Well the search was on for me to find out how many seedlings did he actually name. I researched his files and that of the American Camellia Society and the International Camellia Register and came up with a list of 107 named cultivars by McIlhenny.

Now the job is to try and find these plants either at the garden or in other gardens around the world. I looked in my own garden and found ten varieties that were his. Some of his famous varieties include 'Nina Avery,' 'Big Beauty,' 'Florence Stratton,' 'Kerlerec,' 'Mollie Moore Davis,' 'Sieur de Bienville' and 'Virgin's Blush' all of which I have in my garden.

Following is the list of camellias that McIlhenny named. If you know of any of these I would appreciate if you let me know so that I may photograph and possibly propagate them to add them back to Jungle Gardens where they originated.



*C. jap. 'Big Beauty' 1943 McIlhenny*



*C. jap. 'Mollie Moore Davis' 1946  
Sport of 'Big Beauty'*



*C. jap. 'Nina Avery' 1949 McIlhenny*



*C. jap. 'Florence Stratton' 1941 McIlhenny*

## MCILHENNY REGISTERED CAMELLIAS

AGNES CELESTINE	1948	J	Med	SD/P	White striped pink
ALBA PLENA MINOR	1935	J	Sm	Fd	White w/ small petals
ALLINGHAM	1941	J	Sm	Fd	Deep red w/ white stripes
AMAZING	1937	j	Med	Fd	Purple fading to lavender; petals v'ed at the tips
ANNE BROWN	1946	J	Lge	Sing	Rose pink w/ prominent stamens
ANNE QUIN REILY	1949	J	Med	SD	Pinkish white petals; thick textured and V'ed at the edges
ANNETTE (MCILHENNY)	1952	J	Lge	SD	Pink w/ center rabbit ears, interspersed w/ yellow stamens.
BARONE DE PONTALBA (BARONESS)	1948	J	Lge	Peo	Dark pink w/ small, irregular, central peals
BELLE FLEUR	1946	J	Lge	SD	Tyrian rose. Petals large & loosely imbricated, w/a few stamens in the center.
BELLE ROSE	1937	J	Lge	Sing	Rose- pink w/ prominent strong veins of a darker shade.
BIG BEAUTY	1941	J	Vlge	RFD	White, light veins, dotted and blotched rose.
BILL PORTER (PRINCESS ELIZABETH)	1948	J	Lge	SD	White.
BONNIE PRINCE CHARLES	1949	J	Med	LP/Ane	White central petals & blush pink outer petals, edges veined a deeper color
BOULE DE FEU	1934	J	Med	Peo	Red
BOULE DE NEIGE	1935	J	Med	Peo	White
CABEZA DE VACA	1946	J	Med	SD	Pink variegated white. Sport of Quartette
CALDWELL RED	1937	J	Med	Fd	Rose red.
CALDWELL VAR	1937	J	Med	Fd	Variegated white form of Caldwell Red
CANDY STRIPE	1942	J	Med	SD	White striped pale rosoline purple. Sport Barbara Whaley
CAPTAIN BLOOD	1950	J	Med	fd	Rose-red bloom washed pomegranate purple.
CARMINE KING	1953	J	Med	Ane	Carmine.
CHANCELLOR ?	1946	J	Lge	Peo	Medium to deep pink, flecked with white. Sport of Concordia.
CHERRY-O	1941	J	Lge	SD	Carmine shading to pinl, blotched white.
CREPE DE CHINE	1937	J	Med	SD	White, Rose Pink or variegated.
DEEP VELVET RED	1948	J	Sm	Fd	Carmine w/ occasionally a white streak down the center of ea. petal.
D'IBERVILLE	1948	J	Sm	Fd	White ground suffused with lite pink, ea. Petal having a line of pink down center.
DE L'ILE	1937	J	Sm	Peo	Rose Red mottled white.
DE SOTO	1945	J	Med	Peo	Amaranth pink, many petaloids blotched white.
DELORME	1937	J	Med	SD	Rose Madder, blotched white
DIVERSAFLORA PLENA	1937	J	Med	Fd	Light Rose Pink blotched White.
DOROTHY PENICK	1948	J	Med	Peo	Pale, rosolane purple, veined deeper.
DOUBLE PINK POMPOM	1953	J	Lge	Peo	Deep Rose Pink lightly veined Rose.
DR. JOE ROBERTS	1948	J	Med	Peo/Ane	Carmine
DR. OLWIG THAYER	1937	J	Med	SD/Rfd	Cherry red.
EDWARD DOUGLAS WHITE	1953	J	Med	RFD	Rose-pink lined and veined rose-red tipped white.
ELLEN MACKENZIE	1937	J	Med	Pep	Pink ground, striped deeper pink and spotted white. (Concordia)
EMMELINA LABICHE	1947	J	Lge	SD	Rose-red, stamens white tipped lemon yellow.
ETIENNE DE BORE	1945	J	Med	SD	Pink blotched white. Sport of Quartette
FISHER'S ROSE	1941	J	Lge	Peo	Rose-pink
FLORENCE STRATTON	1941	J	Lge	Fd	White w/ some petals solid pink.
GENERAL CLAIRE CHENNAULT	1953	J	Lge	Fd	Purplish pink edged reddish purple and flecked white.

GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR II	1950	J	Vlge	SD	Begonia rose, lightly veined w/ spectrum red
GENERAL JOHN LEJEUNE	1946	J	MLgSD		Deep rose-pink w/ white stamens & a few pink petaloids.
GENERAL TOUSSAINT BEAUREGARD	1946	J	Med	Ane	Purplish rose pink, veined purplish red.
GLABBERIEMUS	1937	J	Med	FD	Rose-pink shading to shell pink at center.
GLOIRE DE PAULINA	1937	J	Lge	Sing	Rose red.
GLORIOUS I	1937	J	Med	Fd	Lt. Red tipped Rose pink
GOV. RICHARD LECHE	1944	J	Lge	SD	Pink lightly lined Rose, cupped long narrow petals.
HAEMANTHUS	1937	J	Lge	Peo	Deep red, heavily veined w/reddish purple w/ white blotches.
HERMOSA (JG)	1937	J	Med	Sing	White, sometimes striped Pink and Red.
INEZ H	1949	J	Sm	SD	Deep rose-pink, veined rose w/ white stamens. Cupped.
INVOLUTUS	1937	J	Med	SD	Light Rose pink flecked white.
JEAN MILHET	1950	J	Med	RFD	White with White stamens.
JOHN MCDONOGH	1946	J	Med	FD	Deep rose-pink, veined rose.
JOSEPHINE LOUISE	1946	J	Med	SD	Pure white, central petals interspersed w/ small white stamens.
NEWCOMB					
KATE R	1937	J	Med	Sing	Rose-pink blotched white.
KERLEREC	1946	J	Lge	SD	Clear medium pink. 3 rows of large petals w/ reflexed tips.
LAFAYETTE	1935	J	Sm	Sing	Light red. Small blossoms w/large petals, crepe-like texture.
LAFCADIO HEARN	1946	J	Med	RFD	Spinel red, lightly stained pomegranate purple.
LEUCANTHA	1937	J	Med	SD	Pseudonym for Tricolor White. White.
LINDA BARRY	1941	J	Med	SD	White, heavily washed rose-pink, occasionally a rose-pink bloom.
LOVELINESS	1941	J		SD	Rose-pink petals fringed Amaranth pink.
LUCIE AUDUBON	1946	J	Med	Peo	Pure white: outer petals irregular, central petals upstanding & mixed w/ petaloids & stamen.
LUDOVICIANUS	1937	J	Lge	Sing	White.
MARGARET HAUGHERY	1946	J	Sm	FD	White w/ cupped inner petals.
MARY ANN (SOUTH)	1948	J	Med	SD	Pale pink dotted white.
MARY MC	1941	J	Sm	Ane	Bright rose-pink.
MCILHENNY'S DOUBLE WHITE	1956	S	Med	RFD	White w/urved petals.
MELODY	1941	J	Med	RFD	Rose blotched white. Rose like.
MINNIE MADDERN FISKE	1946	J	Vlge	SD	Rose-pink throughout.
MINUET ?	1937	J			White with pink variegation.
MISS ANNETTE	1961	J	Lge	SD	Deep pink with upright petals.
MISS MARY	1960	J	Med	SD/Peo	Blush pink.
MOLLIE MOORE DAVIS	1946	J	L/Vlge	SD/Peo	Deep Rose Pink (sport of Big Beauty)
MONIQUE PEER	1952	J	Med	Peo	Pink w/ white stamens & pink and white petaloids
MRS FISHER SIMMONS	1946	J	Med	Peo	White w/ recurved outer petals & whirled inner petals.
MRS. GEORGE PATTON	1952	J	Lge	RFD	Spinel pink. 7 rows of large petals which extend up & outwards, white filaments & 2 pk petaloids
NANNINE SIMMONS	1950	J	M/Lpeo		Pale Pink w/ large outer petals & irregular petals in center.
NEDDY BOY	1937	J	Sm	Fd	White, outer petals imbricated; inner petals small and upstanding
NINA AVERY	1949	J	Med	SD	White variegated w/ rose-pink.
PAUL TULANE	1946	J	Med	Peo	Spinel red, lined rose and purple.

PEONY PINK	1941	J	Lge	Peo	Light pink.
PERE ANTOINE	1948	J	Med	RFD	White. Large petals which swirl & turn down. White petaloids mixed w/stamens
POLLY SIMMONS	1950	J	Lge	SD	3 rows of VL, rounded spinel pink petals, deeply V'ed & rabbit eared.
PORT BARRE	1934	J	M/L	Peo	Color varies from solid rose-pink to white.
PRINCESS ELIZABETH (BILL PORTER)	1948	J	Lge	SD	White with Large Petals.
RED GOLD	1948	J	Sm	Sing	Carmine six petaled broad, stamens in the form of a broad compact crown.
RED PEONY	1934	J	Lge	Peo	Very dark red with prominent stamens distributed throughout.
RED VELVET	1945	J	Med	RFD	Carmine red veined and striped purplish red w/ purplish red petaloids.
REVERIE DES FLEURS	1937	J	Sm	FD	Rose-pink spotted white.
ROSEMARY	1937	J	Med	FD	Deep rose.
ROSEMARY OSBORN	1946	J	Med	Ane	Pale Amaranth pink. Two outer rows of petals, center small petals and petaloids.
ROSULARIS	1941	J	Lge	Peo	Rose pink.
RUBRA VIRGINALIS	1937	J	M/L	Peo	Light pink. Sport of Harlequin
SALLY (MCILHENNY)	1946	J	Med	FD	Begonia rose, edged thulite pink.
SHELL PINK (Jap)	1935	J	Lge	Dbl	Rich shell pink.
SHELL PINK (SAS)	1934	S	Med	Peo	Rose pink somewhat lighter in the center.
SIEUR DE BIENVILLE	1946	J	Lge	FD	Deep, rose-pink sport of Florence Stratton.
SOUVENIR D'UNE AMI	1937	J	Lge	Sing	Deep, rose-pink.
SPLENDENS	1946	J	Lge	SD	Red
SUNRISE	1937	J	Med	FD	Rose pink.
TRICOLOR PINK	1937	J	Med	SD	Flesh pink. Sport of Tricolor.
VIRGIN'S BLUSH	1949	J	Med	SD/Peo	White flushed faintest pink.
WHITE BALL	1941	J	Med	Fpeo	White, occasionally lined pink on some petals.
WHITE BEAUTY	1945	J	Med	SD	White w/ wide, flaring, deeply veined petals.
WINNIE DAVIS 1	1946	J	Sm	FD	White lined and blotched Rose pink, Cupped inner petals.



*C. jap. 'Sieur de Bienville' 1946 McIlhenny, sport of Florence Stratton*



*C. jap. 'Rosularis' 1941 McIlhenny*

# Grafting Season 2020

By Mark Crawford, Valdosta, Georgia



Grafting for me has been an education in progress for the last 20 years. This has been an exceptionally good grafting season for me and I want to share my different experiences that may help growers that are just learning to graft or those that are intimidated by the grafting process.

My first experience with grafting was watching Hulyn Smith do high grafts on older plants growing in my yard that were planted by the previous owner. Hulyn would visit me on Sunday afternoons in February with his best scions and graft my plants. My job at that time was to cut the old plants down and get all the brush removed from the area so he could do the grafting. I would assist in the covering of these high grafts and then it was up to me to do the after care. Some of the best advice Hulyn gave me at that time was to plant rootstock plants throughout my yard to be grafted at a later time when something new or exceptionally good was available for grafting. I planted 'Kumagai Nagoya' plants all over my yard as they are the best camellias to grow due to an aggressive root system that can compete with mature trees in the woodland garden. Over several years these plants were grafted and are now very large camellias. High grafting is generally very successful but in some years a fungus would grow on top of the stump killing the scions. I still plant rootstock around my yard and now I

change established plants into new varieties.

Grafting in pots has always been a challenge since so many times the rootstock would die before the scion started growing. This occurred so often for me that I gave up grafting in pots. Later I built raised beds and planted rooted cuttings using 'Kumagai Nagoya' as my preferred rootstock. The first year we had a freak early freeze in November and the bark split on those very juvenile plants and most of them died. Now I plant 1 gallon plants rather than rooted cuttings and mulch the raised bed with pine straw before winter. Using the proper soil mix

is another problem encountered with the raised beds. Using unamended field soil or straight pine bark results in poor root growth. Now I use a pine bark mix with some field soil and worm castings. This mix promotes great growth and a superior rootstock for grafting.

It is also important to keep the plants well watered and fertilized so that they continue to grow and not set flower buds. When Kumagai forms buds they stop growing. Removing flower buds keeps the plants growing until cold weather arrives.

Now to discuss the grafting process. When I first started grafting I could not understand why Hulyn and other growers put sand over the top of the rootstock stumps covering the base of the scion and



*C. jap. "Kumagai Nagoya" makes good understock as it has a wide cambium layer which makes matching to scion easier.*

the graft union. This appeared to me as a primary way to introduce a pathogen to the cut surfaces of the scion and rootstock. For several years I did not place sand over the graft union and my success rate was 40-50%. One year I grafted at Jim Smelly's and he told me to cover the graft union with sand before placing the cup over the graft. That year I had good results with about 75% success. Later while discussing grafting with Tom Sellers of Bolivia, North Carolina he always covers the graft union with sand. He said it keeps the scion moist during the healing process. Two seasoned grafters giving me the same advice I decided to adopt this practice. Now after 3 years my grafting success has improved slightly but at least it has not declined. The sand also wicks away the sap that comes from the rootstock. This sap is full of sugars and nutrients that can support fungal and bacterial growth that can kill the scion.

This year I tried another technique that my good friend JD Thomerson has done for that last few years with very good results. JD has been using quick ties to



*Zip ties hold scion in place.*

secure the rootstock around the scion. This is faster and easier to do rather than using tape or rubber bands. Pulling the quick tie snug but not squeezing the rootstock assures good contact between the scion and rootstock and preventing the scion from coming loose over time. I believe one of the most significant problems when cleft grafting occurs when the scion has poor contact with the rootstock.

Another technique from Randolph Maphis I have adopted is to prepare a batch of scions in the comfort of my garage sitting down. I will do 10 to 20 at a time, soaking them in a solution of Captan (1 TBLS/gallon) for at least 15 minutes and then placing in a plastic bag not rinsed. If for some reason you can't graft at that time just put them in the refrigerator for up to 2 days with no effect on viability. When ready to graft, cut all the rootstocks off at once, do any additional trimming if needed, cleft all that you cut and then stick your scions. By not having to change tools between each graft it takes much less time. After sticking and deciding if the quick tie is needed, spray with Captan, cover with sand, spray Captan again on the sand around the scion and then cover. I use styrofoam cups and the containers Chlorox wipes come in. Check for growth on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The one thing I did not do this year is apply a rooting product like Root Tone around the graft. I have found that when I use blind or dormant eyes that growth can be delayed up to a year. This is caused by the fact that IBA in rooting products can inhibit bud break. By not using any of these products on my grafts bud break has been more consistent.

Many of the readers of the *Camellian* are experienced grafters that have good success but maybe there are a few tips explained here that will be helpful in your 2021 grafting season.

## Grafting Results for the 2020 Season at Loch Laurel Nursery



*Sand covering graft union*

Raised Bed (Only Kumagai  
Nagoya rootstock)  
Total grafted 49  
Dead 6

Pots (Mixed varieties,  
grafted in March)  
Total grafted 53  
Dead 18

High Grafts in yard  
Total 13  
Dead 2



*Sand removed from graft union  
with zip tie.*



*Covered High graft*



*High grafts on large established  
camellia. Paper bag used to  
prevent overheating of scions.*



*Success with high grafting. Wire  
hoops remain for 1 year to deflect  
falling limbs and pine cones that  
can break out new grafts.*

## Optimum Lunar Grafting Days

Just as the moon affects the tides, so does it affect the sap (energy) in plants. At New Moon and Full Moon some of the sap is drawn upward into the plant, and at the first quarter and last quarter it flows back down into the roots. So the best time to graft is when the sap is mostly down, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> and last quarters and a few days each side. This effect is more critical in potted understock, for if you cut off the top while the sap (energy) is in the top the roots often cannot support the plant and it dies. Plants established in the ground do not seem to be affected as much. -ed

Best grafting days 2021 - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 20 January, 19 February.

Second best days 2021 - Last quarter 6 January, 4 February, 6 March

# Camellia Club of New Orleans Member

## JOSEPH LEO HORIL - 100

On Friday, August 28, 2020, Joseph Leo Horil celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! Joseph (Joe) was born on August 28, 1920 in New Orleans, Louisiana. When he was eight years old his family moved to Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, where they operated a grocery/meat market/lunch counter/ gas station. Joe was responsible for keeping the grocery shelves clean and restocked.

In 1937, after attending business school for one year, he went to work as a food broker for Fortier and Brown. He enrolled in night school to study Pre-Law in 1939.

However, in February, 1942, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Joe was stationed at Fort San Cristobal, Puerto Rico; the headquarters of the 10<sup>th</sup> Naval District from which top-secret coded messages were relayed to remote Allied Operations. After two years at Fort San Cristobal, he contracted dysentery and was returned to Annapolis, MD where he was hospitalized for several months. On October 2, 1945, having served his country for 3 years and 8 months, he was honorably discharged.

He returned to his former employment as a food broker and in 1964 became sole owner of Fortier, Brown and Horil. The business lasted until 1975 but Joe remained in the food brokerage business working for several other companies until his retirement in 1999. Well into his 90s,

Joe continued to offer display ideas to grocery store managers.

Joe remained committed to learning and furthering his knowledge even taking computer classes as a senior citizen. Although education was important to him, Joe took time for camaraderie and fun, mainly playing golf, duck hunting, and fishing.

In February, 2008, Joe found a special interest in camellias and joined The Camellia Club of New Orleans that combined his love of learning and his love of people. Later, in 2016, he became a member of The American Camellia Society. Until two years ago, Joe would drive to local grocery stores, garden centers and restaurants to dis-



tribute show flyers for The Camellia Club of New Orleans' annual show. Additionally, he enters blooms in the show, mainly 'Drama Girl' and 'Carter's Sunburst.'

Joe never married or had children but has always taken an active role in the lives of his many nieces, nephews and close friends. He has been a generous sponsor of education and other needs for those he loves.

Until 2018, he resided in the Jefferson, Louisiana home of his parents. Then, he made the difficult but happy decision to move into St Francis Villa where he currently resides.

**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Joe!**

# GULF COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## Summer Board Meeting 2020

### Minutes:

Summer Meeting July 13, 2020 at 1:30  
Patio 44 Restaurant Gulfport, MS

### Attendees:

Dennis Hart, President  
Joseph Holmes, Vice President  
Jim Campbell, Secretary  
Bill Perkins, President Brookhaven Camellia Club  
State Directors:  
Lisa Miller  
Dick & Bette Hooton  
Alan McMillan

We did not have a quorum, no decisions could be voted on.

Mike Ruth had sent the Treasurers report (see attached)

Joe Holmes talked about the meeting scheduled for St. Francisville, October 19 -20.

He had gotten great room rates for the Bluffs of \$90/night and no breakfast. To use the meeting room for dinner and the Banquet was quoted at \$800/ day and the dinners would have to be catered and the rates were \$45 and up. The Bluffs are 6 miles from St. Francisville and night traveling is not recommended.

Hemingbough is only 2 miles from St. Francisville and they have 9 rooms available for \$119/ night with breakfast and dinners would run around \$42/ person. The Best Western in town has a room rate of \$87/ night with breakfast.

Another venue would be the Episcopal Church in St. Francisville (no price as yet) limited parking on site could be a problem.

The consensus of the members there thought that the Bluffs would be off the table.

Joe Holmes was going to continue exploring other possibilities.

We also discussed cancelling the October meeting, All agreed it was too early to make that decision. We thought the last decision to call it off would be set by the venue and their time frame for cancellation.

The only other discussion was on the nominating of new State Vice Presidents. We were all asked to speak to our local clubs to seek nominations.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Campbell, Secretary

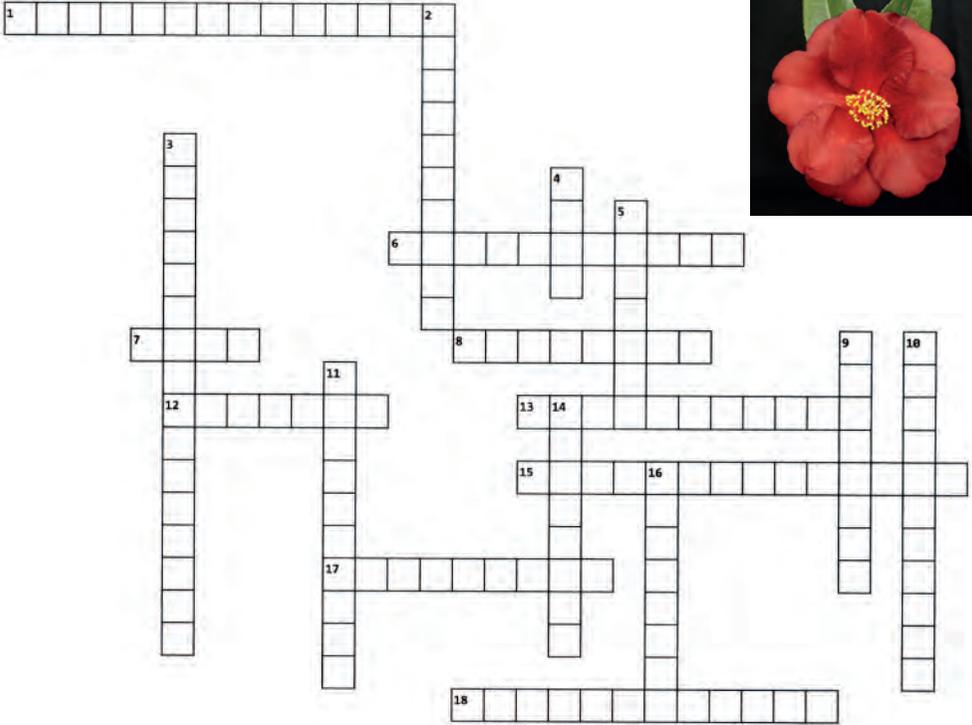
### Financial Statement - 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020 - Ann Ruth, Treasurer

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Previous Year</u>
Checking Balance 7/1/2019	10,306	
Deposits	17,118	16,429
Dues: 2,776	2,312	
Donations: 2,168	1,509	
2019 Meeting Expenses	- 6,682	-11,749
Camellian Expenses	-5,783	- 5,295
Meeting Refunds	-340	- 235
Mailing Expenses not related to meeting	-220	- 128
L.A. Sec. of State	-15	- 15
Checking Balance 6/30/2020	14,437	
Portfolio Balance 7/1/2019	13,835	
Appreciation	15,207	7,344
Grants	<u>- 6,000</u>	- 4,000

Portfolio Balance 6/30/2020 123,042 include \$15,000 in cash.

Total Net Worth 6/30/2020 \$137,479 124,141

# Camellia Crossword



## Across

1. Recently retired ACS Executive Director  
2 words)
6. Acid that promotes early and larger blooms
7. Wonder oil from East India
8. Common pest in camellia gardens  
(2 words)
12. Lowers soil pH
13. Dark red consistently winning bloom  
(2 words)
15. Japonica producer of many sports  
2 words)
17. County agent in Alexandria, LA  
(2 words)

18. 1st retic introduced into Europe 1826  
(2 words)

## Down

2. Encourages better & larger blooms
3. Flower with 130 petals (2 words)
4. Turkish tent
5. State honored on 1st US stamp to feature a camellia
9. One propagation method
10. Fungal disease of camellias (2 words)
11. Another name for Mathotiana (2 words)
14. Oil seed camellia
16. Site of last major battle of American Revolution

**Crossword Answers**

**Down**  
 1. Celeste Richard 6. Gibberlic 7. Neem 8. Tea Scale 12. Sulphur 13. Royal Velvet 15. Betty Sheffield  
 17. Dr. Michael (Polozola) 18. Captain Rawes

**Across**  
 2. Disbudding 3. Eighteen Scholars 4. Yurt 5. Alabama 9. Cuttings 10. Petal Blight  
 11. Purple Dawn 14. Oleifera 16. Yorktown

# Editor's Notes

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



**Ramblings on Grafting:** I was on the internet looking at articles about grafting and was amazed by all the different ideas and techniques people have about grafting. It reminded me of the days about 70 years ago when I first started grafting. In 1950 my parents bought a 3.5 acre mini-farm on Jefferson Davis Highway (now known as Jefferson Hwy) and we now had plenty of room for camellias. They had long had an interest in camellias, but had no place to grow them, I had been dragged off to camellia shows since I was in Jr. High School, so I thought it was pretty neat to plant and graft these new bushes.

The standard procedure for grafting in those days was to purchase B & B sasanquas about 1 inch in diameter, plant them and let them grow for a year then graft them. You cut off the understock about 2" from the ground, split it and wedged it open and inserted the prepared scion. There was no rooting hormone, no fungicide spray, no taping or tying - just a smear of "Treekote" on the cut. Then cover it with a gallon jar and put a little sand around the jar to seal it. My mother was an elementary school principal and she had the lunchroom manager save all the empty wide mouth gallon jars for our grafting.

Then the whole mess was covered with a bean hamper for shade after removing a piece of one slat on the North side for light. Pretty simple, but in those days there was no die-back so we had a very high percentage of takes.

In 1964 I built my house on the back half of this property and the following winter started grafting camellias there. I bought a couple dozen sasanquas and planted them out. The standard procedure then was the same as in 1950, but I made one slight change. I was too impatient to wait a year, so I grafted them right away. I ran out of glass jars before I got them



*C. jap. 'Claudia Phelps' 1948 Fruitland, GA*



*C. jap. 'Pink Pagoda' 1963 Moore, CA*



*C. jap. 'Dixie Knight Sup. 1961 Wheeler, GA*



*C. jap. 'Gullio Nuccio Var.'* 1956 Nuccio, CA



*C. jap. 'Carter's Sunburst Pink Var'* 1962 CA



*C. jap. 'Clark Hubbs'* 1960 Rowell CA



*C. jap. 'Floradora Girl'* 1961 Hull AI

all done, so I did the last six with wire hoops and plastic bags taped to the trunk like in top-working.

All was going nicely until a few days later when we had one of those all day 6" rains. The culvert under the street where the creek runs stopped up with trash and the area where the camellias were planted was flooded with 3 feet of water with a foot of water running across the street.

The next morning to check the grafts and found that the baskets and jars were all turned over but the scions were OK. However, the six with the wire hoops and plastic bags were gone. The bags made great floats and lifted the plants, root-ball and all, and floated them across the street and down the creek. I found them about 50 yards down the creek lodged in some bushes.

I brought them home, dropped them into their muddy holes, raked some dirt and leaves around them and hoped for the best. The plants lived, the scions took and they provided beautiful blooms for about 50 years until a hurricane blew a tree down and flattened them. Some tried to make a comeback, but dieback finished off most of them including 'Claudia Phelps,' 'Pink Pagoda,' 'Dixie Knight Supreme,' 'Gullio Nucci Var.,' 'Carter's Sunburst Pink Var.,' 'Clark Hubbs,' 'Flora Dora Girl,' etc.

They had a hard life, but I loved them all.

# Gulf Coast Camellia Society

## Invitation to Join



*C. japonica 'Bessie Battle' 1979, by Tom Dodd, Loxley, AL*



*C. japonica 'Flossie Goodson' 1977, C. Bozeman, Hattisburg, MS*



*C. japonica 'Duchess of Covington' 1953, S. J. Katz, Covington. LA*



*C. japonica 'Beau Harp' 1949, G. H. Wilkinson, Pensacola, FL*

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 Ann Ruth, 726 High Plains Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# *The Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

## *Officers and Board Members 2018 - 2020*

President Dennis Hart  
1403 Adams St.  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
(504) 866-2490 [dlhart98@aol.com](mailto:dlhart98@aol.com)

First Vice-President Joe Holmes  
11931 Indigo Dr.  
St. Francisville, LA 70775  
(225) 721-2084 [josephcjr@bellsouth.net](mailto:josephcjr@bellsouth.net)

Treasurer Ann Ruth  
726 High Plains Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70810  
(225) 767-1388 [mruthmd@gmail.com](mailto:mruthmd@gmail.com)

Secretary Jim Campbell  
16068 Riverside Dr.  
Covington, LA 70435-7923  
(985-603-9899 [rivercamellia@bellsouth.net](mailto:rivercamellia@bellsouth.net)

### State Vice-Presidents

Alabama Victoria Baugh, Spanish Fort, AL  
Florida Dick Hooton, Pensacola, FL  
Georgia Mark Crawford, Valdosta, GA  
Louisiana Edward Martin, Belle Chase, LA  
Mississippi Jim Smelley, Moss Point, MS  
Lisa Miller, Gulfport, MS  
Texas Hal Vanis, Henderson, TX

Immediate Past President Caroline Dickson, Poplarville, MS  
Chairman Finance Committee Mike Ruth, Baton Rouge, LA  
Webmaster James Dwyer, Mobile, AL [jdwyer@gulftel.com](mailto:jdwyer@gulftel.com)

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society is a non-profit corporation chartered 12/14/1962  
in the State of Louisiana (charter no. 03207330n).

*The Gulf Coast Camellian* is published quarterly  
by the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, Inc.

Kenneth B. Campbell, Editor

3310 Fairway Drive

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

(225) 923-1697 [kennbc@cox.net](mailto:kennbc@cox.net)

Printed by Vivid Ink Graphics, Baton Rouge, LA



*C. japonica* 'K. Sawada'