

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Fall 2012

Volme 38 No. 2



Photo by Randolph Maphis

‘Elizabeth B. Hunt’

*A Publication of The Gulf Coast Camellia Society
50th Anniversary Year*

The Gulf Coast Camellian

Volume 38 No. 2

Fall 2012

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President's Message

Richard Hooton, Jr.

Another one of those blankety-blank periods in our lives: Bette and my daughter (local) are in casts, my computer took a lightning strike, and the heavy rains washed out one of the bulkheads on my bluff. So along with being a gardener/construction engineer/employer of a local marine construction firm, I'm also a cook, hairdresser, and bra-puter-oner. And I'm loaded with camellia buds and everyone in Pensacola seems to have an abundance of seed pods. John Grimm over Covington way, CLAIMS to have already had several



*Out-going president Dick Hooton
and his wife Bette*

blooms, although I've seen no pictures, (he started gibbing in May) and delights in harassing me.

Well, as they say, all good things must come to an end. I've thoroughly enjoyed being your president for the last two years. Probably the easiest job I've ever held because the other officers are all great and very talented; add Homer Richardson and



*Dick Hooton's own Pensacola variety,
'Bette Anne' (c. japonica 2009)*

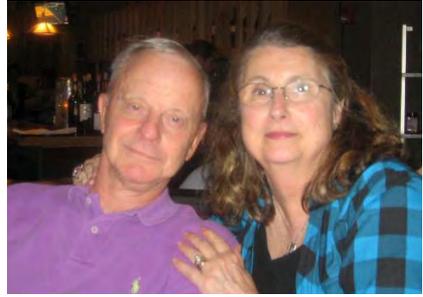


*The BRAT, the P. Camellia truck donated to
our club.*

his web page and Geri Jinks for her Camellian (boy, does Kenn Campbell have big shoes to fill!). If



Dick and incoming president Lynn Vicknair judging in Covington.



Dick and Bette Aguin

I just stay out of the way, their accomplishments far exceed anything one can expect or hope for.

Looking forward to seeing y'all in Natchez for our 50th anniversary; it oughta be a grand time. Wonder how many charter members will be there?

Guess I'll look into that.

From our Cover.....



Photo by Mark Crawford

‘Elizabeth B. Hunt,’ a medium c. reticulata hybrid introduced in 2008 by Hulyn Smith, Vladosta, GA.

Camellia Preservation

by *Hunter N. Charbonnet*

Certain plants are living antiques and as such deserve the reverence that the distinction implies. In the South, no plant is more deserving of this honor than the Camellia. Unfortunately in recent history and throughout the camellia belt, there has been far less interest in garden history than in garden sentimentality. Hence, varieties get lost and their stories go untold. Our passion for their beauty should also extend to the memory they can create as every camellia at one time or another was the “newest and latest” that exuded the pride and joy of the originator.

Although camellias often have the love and nearly bankruptcy-inducing devotion from their growers, private gardens rarely have an intergenerational aspect to them making it difficult for their stories to be passed on and shared with following generations. Fortunately, the American Camellia Society along with other well known registries have dedicated themselves to ensure that varietal lineage and heritage are preserved in history. In fact, the American Camellia Society has a vast collection and gallery of camellia pictures online with their individual characteristics for all to explore.

Cultivars need to be saved, especially for their genetics. Unknown camellias in particular need to be protected in the event that a “lost” variety suddenly returns as a result of modern day technology which can help re-identify varieties through cross referencing genetic markings. Additionally, the sharing of digital photography through Internet resources allows many more to view unknown flowers with the hope that someone may one day recognize and identify an unknown variety.

An example of why registry and preservation is so important can be better understood by the story in 1995 where the exploration of an old nursery site known as Riverview Nursery near Mobile, AL found a series of camellias with forty year old labels named “Bowman #13, Bowman #24,” etc. No one knew what they were but someone explored the “International Registry” where a cross reference between each Bowman number and the cultivator was found showing they originated in Pensacola FL. A number of these plants were near extinction but were saved and now reside with proper identification within Pensacola’s heritage planting.

In addition to their beauty, every

flower has a story and it is the story that makes the flower even more special. For instance, the camellia sasanqua known as “Reverend Ida” was originated by Mr. Tom Dodd Jr. This sasanqua has been made even more interesting because he named the plant for his beloved Sunday school teacher who was nicknamed “Reverend Ida.” Through sentiment, they are now forever linked in history.

But in addition to their sentimentality and beauty, we must pay attention to what makes each variety different. Many do not realize that anecdotal comments made in Camellia Journals or in casual conversations within clubs can sometimes lead others seeking desirable traits. Would James Finlay have thought about crossing “Scentuous” with “Mrs. Bertha Harms” without the anecdotal evidence of a mild fragrance within Bertha? Had he not, we would not have the camellia hybrid named “High Fragrance” today.

Preserving new varieties is equally important as “Valerie” and “Edna Campbell” had to be rediscovered because the original cultivars had not been properly documented or recorded. “Sea Foam” is now over 50 years old and it is again showing up on head tables at flower shows. What was valuable once before can become valuable again which gives us even more reason to preserve camellia lineage

over time.

A favorite camellia story has to do with a woman by the name of Frankie Huff Winn who was born in Savannah GA in 1913. Frankie was one of those children that excelled in just about everything that she did. She was outgoing, well liked, and an



‘Seafoam’ 1959
John T. Weisner, Fernandina Beach, FL.



‘Edna Campbell’ 1954
Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Brock, Tallahassee, FL

accomplished pianist, seamstress, teacher, and principal. In 1938, she married a fellow educator, Wallace Winn. These two could not have been more different but as they say, “opposites attract.” Frankie loved parties and mingling with friends.



Frankie Winn
(c. japonica 1978)
Mrs. J. Luker,
Savannah, GA

Wallace would prefer to stay at home and work on his projects. While residing in Savannah, Wally developed an interest in camellias and you know what happened next – passion overload. Wally would grow them and Frankie would take care of them, display them, and with her passion as an educator, she would share the blossoms wherever she went.

Frankie died in 1973 but Wally continued to grow his camellias. In 1978, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Luker of Savannah had been so impressed by Frankie that they named a camellia cultivar in her honor now known as “Frankie Winn.” A few years later, Frankie’s brother-in-law, Bill Sutton, developed a variegated version which was registered in 2000.

Later in life, Wally came up with another idea to honor his wife. Aside from growing camellias, Wally was an avid collector of various things,

one of which was Boehm porcelain. With a lot of perseverance, Wally finally convinced the Boehm Company to make a porcelain replica of the “Frankie Winn” camellia which was followed shortly thereafter by a variegated version. Hence, Wally was able to forever immortalize his wife through his passion and love of camellias. Before Wally’s death, Wally donated most of his Boehm Porcelain collection to the American Camellia Society which is now on public display at ACS headquarters in Fort Valley GA.

Camellias are a big part of garden history especially in the South. So as you enjoy them, learn from them. Pay attention to and share their story because new discoveries not only increase our interest but add to an insatiable passion we all share.



GREENHOUSE GROWING - PART 2

Creating the ideal environment for growing camellias.



By Mark Crawford
Valdosta, GA

Now that you have decided to build a greenhouse or are at least thinking about it, you need to consider the growing environment. What I mean by this is selecting the correct light, water, soil and temperature to grow and bloom camellias that will win shows. We will start by deciding how to grow the plants - directly in the ground or in pots. If you intend to keep the greenhouse covered in the summer, then you want to use pots so you can move the plants outside under trees during the growing season. On the other hand if you cover the greenhouse with single season polyfilm then you can plant the camellias directly in the ground. Another option is to use the pot in pot system, a practice used by nursery growers to product trees and large shrubs. This is where you have a pot permanently buried in the



Frank Houser in full bloom in the greenhouse.

ground (referred to as the socket pot) and the growing pot that fits into it. This system keeps the roots cooler resulting in better growth and it prevents blow over during storms. The downside is that the camellia will outgrow the pot in about 4-5 years and should be replaced with another, young vigorous plant. You can use a 7 gallon pot for growing, however, based on my observation in Hulyn Smith's greenhouse, I recommend a 10 gallon pot for the best growth. Hulyn used this system so he could change the plants as new varieties became available.

When growing directly in the ground you can use the soil as is if it is a good sandy loam soil with good drainage. If not, then it is wise to amend the soil with pine bark or sand to improve soil texture depending on the type of native soil you have. If you have poor drainage, then raising the soil level in the greenhouse is your best option. If necessary install drain tile if you have any doubts about drainage because camellias need well drained soil. In pots you need to use a pine bark mix that remains porous for several years to maintain a healthy root system.

Now that you have decided to grow either in ground or in pots then you need to consider irrigation options. There are many types of irrigation systems on the market but do not use overhead irrigation in the greenhouse. This will cause disease



Pot-in-Pot where a socket pot is buried in the ground that will fit the growing container. Note the irrigation using a Robert's spray stake.



Rainbird spray stakes can be used for pots or plants in ground. Downward spray pattern works well to keep foliage dry



Robert's spray stakes are ideal for pot irrigation. The various colors are for different amounts of water depending on pot size and size of plants.

problems on the plants and the flowers. In pots, the Robert's Spray stakes work well and are easy to install and very inexpensive (see photo). For in ground plants, I suggest the Rainbird® spray stakes. This system is also easy to install and uses the same type supply pipe as

Now lets consider the amount of light your plants will get. If the greenhouse is under trees, shade cloth may not be required. If you are in the open, then shade is required. When I did my survey of greenhouse growers last year, most growers used 50% shade cloth, and



Greenhouse using pot-in-pot system and portable propane heaters.

the Robert's system. The advantage of the spray stakes is that you can either have a downward facing spray pattern to water individual plants or a horizontal spray pattern to water a larger area without getting the foliage wet. (See photo) There are other irrigation systems available but this is what I use in my nursery and it works.

a few used 70% shade. This will depend on your location, and how much cloud cover you typically have during the winter and summer. There are two types of shade cloth available: either woven or knitted. Most shade cloth is black but colors are available to alter the light spectrum reaching your plants. The colored shade is generally to

increase growth or to act as a growth regulator depending on the color and not necessary for growing blooming size plants.. Gray shade cloth works very well as it has less heat absorption than black. If heat is your concern, then I suggest using aluminized shade cloth sold under the brand name Aluminat®. It provides shade and keeps your house from 10 -15°F cooler than using black cloth. This product is more expensive but with global warming, might be your best option.

Now that soil, water and light are figured out, you need to consider heating the greenhouse in winter since the reason you are doing this is to avoid freezes that ruin your

flowers. Depending on your latitude, some growers might only heat the greenhouse 3-5 nights/year. Most growers surveyed keep the greenhouse just above freezing to 38°F . This is all it takes to keep the flowers and buds from turning black. You can use a portable propane gas heater or a thermostatically controlled vented gas heater. Portable heaters are sufficient for many growers who only need to protect plants a few nights per year. If you are below freezing for more than 10 nights per year you should invest in a vented heater with a thermostat. In Part 3 we will discuss caring for the plants.



Gulf Coast Camellia Society Board Meeting

Homer Richardson reviews plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting in Natchez at the recent Board Meeting in Covington, LA. Al and Vicki Baugh take notes.

From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson

Brookhaven, Mississippi



This is going to be a mash note to a place I've always loved. I grew up in a very small town 30 miles from Natchez. We had rather limited shopping opportunities there so we would go to Brookhaven or Natchez. We shopped in both towns, depending on what we needed. Both had supermarkets and department stores and we sort of took turns, sometimes we would go to Natchez as they had a bit more to offer in the way of department stores and medical facilities. My father preferred to go to Brookhaven as there was a bit less traffic, but he wasn't much of a shopper anyway.

Both are and have always been lovely small cities but Natchez had all the antebellum mansions that are so lovely to look at. As a child I was so



Longwood Plantation

impressed to see the ladies and girls doing what in a child's way I thought of as playing "dress up" for the Pilgrimage tours. These came about because one year the garden clubs had scheduled a tour of their lovely gardens and there was a really devastating late freeze. They improvised and took the visitors through their homes. That proved such a success that they've been doing it ever since! My mother of

course wanted me to emulate these ladies by also being cordial, welcoming and gracious whenever we had guests. Not sure that took, but I do try. Otherwise I have Granny on one shoulder and Mother on the other telling me to "be sweet." The house that I loved the most has not been on tour for some time, that was Arlington. There was a fire there several years ago and it has not been repaired or restored since then. There are so many others though that visitors are, as the English say, "spoilt for choice." We will be seeing two of the nicest, Melrose and Longwood. Both are lovely and Melrose has just had a major restoration. It now belongs to the National

Park Service and one of our speakers will be Kathleen Jenkins, who is the Director for the Park Service here. Longwood is unique in its plan, as it is an octagonal house and I think the only one in the U.S. Our Brookhaven Master Gardeners and Camellia Society volunteers helped reclaim the camellias at Melrose.

There are of course lots of other mansions, most within walking distance of the hotel. Some of these are Stanton Hall, Fort Rosalie (owned by the DAR), Texada, The Burn, The House on Ellicott's Hill and others. There are many others, the hotel will give you information about all that are open. Also the Natchez Cemetery is well worth a visit. That alone to do properly would take at least a half day. We would hope so much that you would come back with more time to see all the things here.

This is probably the premier tourist destination in the state, aside from the Coast. This part of the state is sort of a well kept secret as it is sort of tucked in a corner. Most of these homes have lots of camellias in their gardens, along with azaleas and other lovely things. And of course we have the river, our beloved Mississippi, which has played such a large part in our state's history. It was so important that without it's capture the North would not have won the "Late Unpleasantness." Until recently, Vicksburg refused to celebrate July Fourth, since that was the day the city surrendered after a long seige.

I have always loved the river cities; there is just a certain mystique about them. Of course there are the stories about Natchez-Under-The-Hill, which is just down Silver Street from here. It is much more respectable now than it was "back in the day." There have been some books about Natchez that ya'll might enjoy. "So Red The Rose" by Stark Young, "Natchez Woman" and "Indigo Bend" by Alice Walworth Graham. These are probably out of print but available from Amazon. Natchez also is home to Greg Iles, who is a best selling writer and lives here. Before I forget, (this is for Vincent) the nurseryman Thomas Affleck was in Washington, MS about six miles from here, selling camellias across the U.S. before the War.

I do hope all of our members of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society will come to Natchez for the Conference. Please come and visit and have a good time, so much so that you will come back many more times. Natchez is a lot like New Orleans in that if you have a bad meal you will have been to a fast food place. We really enjoy welcoming visitors to Mississippi any time but especially when they are as nice as Camellia people are. Plan a return trip around the time of the Brookhaven Show or any time. I could go on and on about this town but it would quickly turn into a history lesson and this is to encourage ya'll to have fun! 🌸

Camellia Quiz

Test your knowledge of camellia blossoms by matching the following appropriate name with the widely grown blooms shown below. Katie Var., Lady Kay Var., Gullio Nuccio Var., Adolph Audusson Var., Ville de Nantes, Frank Houser Var., Wm. Forest Bray. Answers on page 22.



#1 _____



#2 _____



#3 _____



#4 _____



#5 _____



#6 _____

2011 Show Dates

10 November 2012 – Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society, FL
Westwood Retirement Resort, 1001 N. Mar-Walt Drive, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

17 November 2012 - Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society, Gulfport, MS
Lyman Community Center. 13472 Highway 49 Gulfport, 4 miles north of I 10.

1 December 2012 - Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA
Saint Margaret Mary Gym Robert Road.

8 December 2012 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL
The Wright Place, 1st United Methodist Church Wright St. Pensacola, FL.

15 December 2012 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA
St. Scholastica's Academy Gym., 122 North Massachusetts St, Covington, LA.

12 January 2013–Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA—To Be Announced

19 & 20 January 2013 – Camellia Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL
Colonial Mall Bel Air, Mobile, AL.

26 January 2013 - Huntsville, TX, Coushatta Camellia Society
at Gibbs Ranch Conference Center, Sam Houston State University, 113 Fraser Road.

28 & 29 January - Conroe, TX, Coushatta Camellia Society
at First Christian Church Fellowship Building, 3500 North Loop 336 West.

2 & 3 February 2013—Brookhaven Camellia Society, Brookhaven, MS
Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51 N.

9 & 10 February, 2013 – Birmingham Camellia Society, Birmingham, AL
Birmingham, Botanical Gardens, Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL.

9 & 10 February 2013 – Baton Rouge Camellia Society, Baton Rouge, LA
Rural Life Museum, Essen Lane at I-10 Baton Rouge, LA.

2 March 2013- Southeast Alabama Camellia Club, Dothan, AL
First Methodist Church. Check for updates on our website

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.

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

50th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Natchez Grand Hotel, Natchez, MS

October 15-16, 2012

Make your reservations at 1-866-488-0898. Tell the reservation clerk rooms have been reserved under the block for Gulf Coast Camellia Society. Rates are \$102.00 (plus tax) per room (although this rate is not guaranteed after Sept. 8. You may request this room rate for Sunday, October 14, 2012, also).

Monday, October 15, 2012

Noon: Registration at Natchez Grand Hotel- raffle tickets will be available. Items will be available for bidding for special Silent Auction.

2:00 pm GCCS Board Meeting in Room C.

5:00 pm Happy Hour in the Hospitality Room.

6:00 pm Dinner in the Grand Ball Room followed by Auction.
Please bring items to donate for the Auction.

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

8:00 am Continental Breakfast in the Grand Ball Room.

8:30 am GCCS Membership General Business Meeting in the
Grand Ball Room.

9-11:45 am Educational Sessions.

12:00 Noon Lunch and end of Silent Auction. Place last minute bids.

1:00 pm Tours - Recommendations (See sheet in registration packet)

5:00 pm President's Reception in the Grand Ball Room.

6:00 pm Dinner Banquet in the Grand Ball Room.

Registration Form for GCCS Annual Meeting 50th Anniversary

**October 15-16, 2012
Natchez Grand Hotel, Natchez MS**

Please register me/us for the GCCS meeting in Natchez:

	Number	Amount
1. Registration - (\$30.00 ea.) (Hospitality Suite, Tuesday Continental Breakfast, Lunch and General Expenses)	_____	\$ _____
2. Monday Night Dinner (\$35.00 ea.) and Happy Hour Note: Please bring items for Auction	_____	\$ _____
3. President's Reception and Tuesday Night Dinner (\$35.00 ea.)	_____	\$ _____

Other

Enclosed are my dues for GCCS (\$10.00 Single, \$12.00 couple)	\$ _____
Enclosed Life Member dues for GCCS (\$200.00 Single, \$240 Couple)	\$ _____
Enclosed contribution to the Camellian Fund	\$ _____
Enclosed payment for tickets for raffle drawing - \$5 each or 3 for \$10	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Please mark any changes with an asterisk () so we will know to change the roster information.*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail _____

Make check payable to GCCS and mail by September 14 to:

**Peter M. Soules
22128 5th Street
Abita Springs, LA 70420**

ACS Camellia Flower Blight Research Project



Dr. Bill Bennett of Pensacola is conducting a research project on petal blight in Camellias. He will attempt to produce infectious spores in the lab that will enable him to study and understand what conditions control spore blight release without the limitations of seasonal conditions that trigger natural outbreaks.

HE NEEDS THE HELP OF CAMELLIA GROWERS in order to track the blight and develop a better understanding of the timing of infections in the different regions of the U. S.

Please complete the form below and let Dr. Bennett know when petal blight first appears in your area.

ACS CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT RESEARCH PROJECT

Date flower blight infection first observed _____
on Camellia flower _____

Zip code where infected plant grows _____

Your mailing address _____

Please mail completed form to:

ACS Camellia Flower Blight Project
c/o Bill Bennett
3846 Menendez Drive
Pensacola, FL 32503

Diseases Affecting Camellia Growth

In addition to the Camellia Flower Blight which is under investigation by Dr. Bill Bennett of Pensacola, Florida, (See p. 16.), Camellia Dieback and Root Rot are serious camellia fungus diseases especially in the Gulf South.

Camellia Dieback: The fungus that causes this disease grows well where the weather is hot and humid. The symptoms are sudden dieback of twigs or branches and gray splotches which appear on the stems of the plant which turn into cankers or sunken areas eventually encircling the stem. That part of the stem or branch above the canker turns yellow and dies. If cankers form on the main trunk of the plant, this may cause the death of the entire plant.

The fungus must enter the plant tissue through wounds such as leaf-scar when leaves fall in the spring, pruning cuts, lawn mower/string trimmer injury, graft unions, etc.

Treatment involves cutting off the diseased stems several inches below the canker. Treat cuts with *TreeKote* or a fungicide. It is important to disinfect the pruning tools after each and every cut. Make up a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts of water and religiously dip the pruning shears in this mixture over and over again.

The use of fungicides may be used during periods of leaf drop or wet periods to help avoid infection.

Maintaining healthy camellias in well-drained acidic soil is the best preventive measure taking care to avoid wounding the plant with lawn mowers and/or other gardening tools.



Camellia seedling with dieback symptoms.

Root Rot: This disease is caused by a soil born fungus, *phytophthora cinnamomi*. The leaves of the camellia will begin to turn yellow all over the plant and soon the entire plant will wilt. The plant may die quickly, but in some cases it will linger several years. Occasionally, plants that look healthy will wilt and die in a few days.

A look at the roots will reveal the lack of small feeder roots with infected roots being of a reddish or dark brown color instead of the normal white of healthy roots. The rot starts in young feeder roots and spreads to older roots, killing the entire root system. Container grown plants are very susceptible to this disease. However, *c. sasanqua* and *c. oleifera* are resistant to this fungus and should be

used as rootstock for grafting.

The fungus survives in soil and soil debris and is transferred from one area to another by soil movement or water. In pots, a well aerated and well drained potting mix should be used. Do not plant in oversized containers.

Once the plants are infected, the disease is difficult to control. The fungus thrives in soil that is warm and poorly drained. Raising the beds can improve the drainage, but fungicides can be effective only as a preventive measure. Recommended fungicides containing etridiazole such as Banrot 8G or Truban 5G, and mefenoxam



Young graft dying from root rot due to poor drainage.

(Subdue GR) may be used, but because of the cost and the need for accurate application, it would be best to hire a licensed landscaper to use these products in your garden.

Because all common camellia japonicas are susceptible to root rot, and all varieties of camellia sasanqua are resistant to root rot, select camellia japonica cultivars which have been grafted onto a sasanqua rootstock and purchase healthy plants having no signs of wilting or yellowing of the leaves as a way to avoid this problem in your garden.



Fertilizer - Then and Now

By Kenn Campbell
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

In 1972 I was editor of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society Newsletter and I did a survey of camellia growers in the area and wrote an article on their fertilizer practices. I thought it might be interesting to repeat that exercise to see how things may have changed in 40 years. So I again contacted growers in the region to get their fertilizer programs. Here are the results.

THEN:

Here is a portion of that 1972 article:

“I was asking different camellia growers about their fertilization program so I could pass on to you the proper way to fertilize your Camellias. You may have guessed—I got as many different answers as the number of growers I asked. Therefore, select from the following the method that appeals to you and that will be the best way to grow Camellias.

“Violet Stone’s method - Feed with cottonseed meal in early spring and follow with a later application of 8-8-8.

“Art Landry uses a mixture of cottonseed meal plus a balanced commercial fertilizer plus fish meal which he says has all the trace elements needed.

“Ray Gentry of Jackson, Miss. used a mixture of equal parts cottonseed meal, builders sand, and dolomite lime (now ain’t that weird, but his plants seem to grow well in spite of such treatment).

“My own concoction consists of cottonseed meal, bonemeal,

hardwood ashes and leafmold.

“Bill Campbell and a number of others use a commercial camellia fertilizer.

“Sandy Cazedessus says that he has never fertilized his at all and they seem to be doing okay. He has naturally fertile topsoil and keeps them mulched with oak leaves.

“As you can see there are many different ways to achieve the same results. All that is necessary is to provide the plants with a constant supply of the required minerals---nitrogen, potassium and potash.

“Cottonseed meal is an excellent slow release organic fertilizer that contains approximately 7 percent



“*Brother Rose*” (c. japonica 1976)
Vi Stone, Baton Rouge, LA.

nitrogen and small amounts of potassium and potash.

“Steamed bone meal is about 23 percent potassium with small amounts of the other minerals. It is also a slow release fertilizer.

“Fish meal is high in nitrogen, potassium, potash and trace elements.

“Wood ashes are approximately 5 percent potash and have most of the trace elements needed.



*'Bon Bon' (c. japonica 1961
Tochi Demoto, Hayward, CA*

“Leaf mold contains small percentages of the essential minerals and trace elements, but provides the acid reaction and micro-organisms necessary to convert the organic fertilizers into a form usable by the plants.

“The commercial fertilizers provide large amounts of readily available minerals, but soon leach out of the soil and must be replenished.

“The organic fertilizers are slower acting and can be applied in

larger quantities without fear of burning, so that they are available all year.”

Slow release commercial fertilizers were not available then so cottonseed meal was a popular slow release type. At that time it was readily available and not too expensive.

NOW:

Fast forward 40 years to 2012 and a couple of us old geezers are still at it.

Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA, does not fertilize the plants that are growing in the ground, just keeps them well mulched and prunes regularly. The mulch is a slow release fertilizer. He uses Nursery Special for container plants.

My own method. Mulch the older plants and no fertilizer. Feed younger plants and container plants with Nursery Special. Nursery Special is a slow release commercial fertilizer with trace elements.

Others are:

Gerald Phares, Baton Rouge, LA, says he can't mulch because he has free range chickens, and he gets good results with Nursery Special broadcast monthly in the spring. Backs off in the summer.

Mark Crawford, Valdosta, GA. I actually use several types of fertilizer because every year something bad happens related to fertilizers - too much release, not enough release, not long lasting, etc.

I have a test in the nursery now comparing chicken litter, cotton seed meal, Harrel's Controlled release, and Osmocote. All are working well but the chicken liter and cotton seed meal have run out and need to be applied again. They lasted 4 months.

I am not sure you are aware that Nuccio's in California only uses cotton seed meal applied 3X per year. I was very surprised to find this out when I visited 2 years ago.

Camellias are sensitive to fertilizer when in pots and that is why I am looking at different options under my conditions. It will be different in other regions like the Gulf Coast where you are.

Jim Campbell, Covington, LA. recommends the following fertilizing basics.

Camellias are easy to grow and thrive on neglect rather than on too much care. Consider that camellias are acid-loving, surface rooting, and light-feeding plants that have distinct growing and dormant periods.

Type of fertilizer. Since camellias are acid-loving and shade plants and the preferred acidity is around 6-6.5 pH range, a suitable fertilizer must have an acidic reaction. Since they are light feeders a 7% nitrogen range is preferred. Liquid fertilizers and Cottonseed Meal are good fertilizers that do not burn the plants. A slow-release fertilizer is also a good choice.

Amount of fertilizer. Most fertilizers should be applied at half

the amount that the manufacturer recommends. For the granular types and cottonseed meal should be about 1 T/ gallon-sized plant, 2 T/ 2 gallon plant, 3 T/ 3 gallon-sized plant, a light fist-full for the 4 or 5-gallon plant, and proportionately for larger plants and those plants in the ground. Increasing the amount of fertilizer is the main reason for camellia death. Watering the plant before applying fertilizer is very important and watering after is also essential.



'Dahlonega' (c. japonica 1986)
Dr. W. F. Homeyer, Macon, GA

Timing of a particular fertilizer. The correct timing of fertilizing is all-important and is determined by the dormant and growth seasons. Many gardeners fail to understand the significance of these seasons and damage or kill their plants by doing the right thing but at the wrong time. During the seven months from September 1st to April 1st, the time when camellias are developing their buds and blooming, camellias are dormant. Dormant camellias are not

receptive to fertilizers that promote growth; to use a growth fertilizer during this time would be injurious, if not deadly. Fertilizers should be applied only during the growing

season- usually from April 1st to September 1st. These dates may vary considerably, depending upon the variety and the season. One should fertilize at the beginning of the season and definitely before the Sept 1st deadline, any additional feedings should be done according to the recommendations of the fertilizer manufacturer.



'Dixie Knight Supreme' (c. japonica 1961)
Wheeler's Central Georgia Nurseries, Macon Georgia.



'Lady Laura' (c. japonica 1972)
T. E. Lundy, Pensacola, FL.

CONCLUSION:

The secret to any successful fertilization program is to select the proper combination of available fertilizers above (and many others not listed) to provide a constant supply of nitrogen, potassium, potash and trace elements to the plants.

Just remember the three critical factors to be considered are:

1. Type of fertilizer
 2. Amount of fertilizer
 3. Timing of a particular fertilizer
- Follow these basic rules and you should have healthy and beautiful camellias. And as Jim Campbell says, "Killing them with kindness is something you don't want to do."

Camellia Quiz Answers

1. Adolph Audusson Var., 2. Lady Kay Var., 3. Wm. Forest Bray Var., 4. Gullio Nuccio Var., 5. Ville de Nantes, 6. Katie Var.

Got six right - you have a Ph.D. in Camellias. Got 4-5 right - you are the best judge in the show. Got 1-3 right - That's probably better than average. Got none right - maybe you should consider scrapbooking as a hobby.

GCCS - Notes From Our Past

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society was organized at a meeting held in the Roosevelt Hotel at New Orleans on August 5, 1962. About 100 camellia enthusiasts from five states attended the meeting. More than 250 applications for membership were received by the time of the organizational meeting. Dr. Reeves Wells of Pensacola, Florida was elected the first President of GCCS. Plans for the future included having "...more than 500 active members from along the Gulf..." An annual flower show was planned and meetings and shows were to be held in New Orleans. (These plans evolved into annual meetings, in Mobile for many years, and other cities along the coast.)

The first issue of "Gulf Coast Camellias" called the "Official Bulletin" of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society was issued in the fall of 1972 with Elizabeth Cooper of Nashville, Tennessee as Editor. The Bulletin included a note that it had been decided that in place of its own annual show, GCCS would co-sponsor and help support an established local show each year from then forward.

In 1984 Jean Comber of Pensacola took over as Editor from Elizabeth Cooper and continued as Editor until 1993 when Art Landry of Baton Rouge assumed the role of Editor. The Society had decided in 1992 to convert the publication from a Newsletter format to a quarterly Journal format. This conversion was made in 1993 with Volume 21 issues. The name of the publication was changed to "The Gulf Coast Camellian" at that time. In 2006 Geri Jinks of Brookhaven Mississippi assumed the role of Editor until 2012 when Kenn Campbell of Baton Rouge became the Editor.

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society established the Camellian Endowment Fund in 1993 to provide support for our publication expenses and other educational activities. Only the income from the fund is used (when needed) for these educational expenses. We are a non-profit 501C(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible. Memorial or commemorative donations to the fund are welcome. Income from the fund has allowed us to keep our dues at the same low level since the fund was created. 

The Venerable ‘Woodville Red’

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA



‘Woodville Red Blush’ (c. japonica 1961)
L. G. Thomas, Mobile, AL



‘Early Woodville Red’ (c. japonica 1971)
Hody Wilson, Hammond, LA

The ‘Woodville Red’ camellia japonica has been a favorite with growers for many years and remains popular today. It has been known by several other names over the years. (‘Mrs. White,’ ‘Kollock,’ ‘Gruenwald Red,’ ‘Henry Bry,’ ‘Mrs Wright,’ ‘Black Beauty,’ ‘Martin Roberts.’) The flower is a deep strawberry red, large peony form and blooms mid-season.

The ‘Woodville Red’ came from a specimen in the garden of Mrs. Thomas White, Woodville, Mississippi. The original plant is believed to have been planted about 1822 after being imported from Europe. There are two named sports of ‘Woodville Red’.

‘Woodville Red Blush’ was first propagated by L. G. Thomas, Azalea Road Nursery, Mobile, Alabama and registered in 1961. The peony form flowers are blush pink, fading to white with golden anthers. It is sometimes called ‘Woodville Blush.’

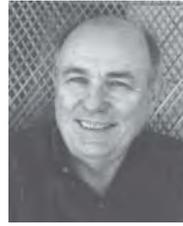
‘Early Woodville Red’ was introduced in 1971 by Hody Wilson from Hammond, Louisiana. The flower is similar to the original except it blooms early instead of midseason. The foliage differs from the original in that the leaves are dull green and “droopy” looking.

We may have our favorites, but all of the ‘Woodville Red’ camellias have been gracing our gardens for many years and will continue for many more.



Editor's Note

By Kenn Campbell



I am Kenn Campbell and I have been selected to be the editor of *The Camellian*. I want to thank Geri Jenks for her many years of service as editor and wish her a speedy recovery. I always enjoyed her publications and always seem to learn something new. I just hope I can come close to maintaining her standards. I have had some experience with magazine layout as I have done the desktop publishing for the *Journal of the Clan Campbell Society (North America)* for the past 15 years. However, we are not able to do it in color, so I will have something new to learn about handling color.

I will need a lot of help from you. The hardest part of being an editor is trying to get material to put in the magazine. So please be diligent in trying to find material to send me. Don't worry about trying to win the Pulitzer Prize, just anything that is interesting to you will be interesting to many others, so send it in.

I first became involved with camellias in 1950 by helping my father plant and graft his camellias and tagging along to shows. In 1953, before I left for service in the Navy, I bought two dozen sasanquas from McLendon's Nursery in Ponchatoula, LA, lined them out in my parents garden and grafted my favorites on them. I wanted to have some camellias to plant in my own yard when I got home. Unfortunately, by the time I got my own house they were too big to move. But since I built my house next door, I could still enjoy them. We both continued to graft and plant through the years until we had quite a collection. After Dad died I became responsible for the whole lot. Due to hurricanes, drought, dieback and neglect, I now have only about 230 plants left in the ground with another 30 in pots waiting to be planted. That's more than I can manage properly now anyway.

The heat and rain has not been favorable for grafting this year. I grafted 26 plants this year, only had about 15 takes, and as of the first of August I only have two left living. It appears that dieback hit them hard. It is pretty discouraging to see a 10" to 18" plant suddenly die, but we have to keep plugging away. There's always next year.

In the Fall Garden

A reminder of chores to be done.

September & October

Harvest and plant any late maturing seed. Disbudding - remove extra buds leaving one per stem for larger blooms. Start gibbing now and continue every couple of weeks through November for a continuous supply of blooms. Water deeply if there is no rain. Do not allow clay soils to dry out as it will not absorb water readily when you water. Spray to control scale and spider mites.

November

Continue gibbing. Buds gibbed now should be ready for the January and February shows. If there is not sufficient rain, water the camellias thoroughly. The flower buds need moisture to open properly.

Collect leaves and pine straw for mulch or compost. If you don't have enough leaves and collect bagged leaves that have been put out for the trash truck, be sure to dump them out when you get home and remove any weeds and other trash. Then run your lawn mower over them to break them up so they won't mat. Apply a generous layer of mulch around the plants.

Check plants for scale and, if needed, spray with oil emulsion spray or an insecticide containing Neem oil, such as Triple Action.

Prepare places for planting new plants. Dig a wide hole no deeper than half the root ball. Mix in some pine bark, sand and composted leaves (or other humus) with the removed soil. Put the soil mixture back in the hole and allow time for it to blend and settle before planting. When ready to plant, do not plant too deep - no deeper than half the root ball. Then build up to the top of the root ball. If the soil is sandy, the plant can be planted with just 6" of the root ball above the ground line.

December

If a hard freeze is predicted, make sure all plants are thoroughly watered. Well watered plants are more resistant to cold damage.

Enjoy your blooms, take some to shows and be sure to share some with friends.



Camellia Websites

American Camellia Society

www.americancamellias.org

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com

Birmingham Camellia Society

www.birminghamcamellias.com

Brookhaven Camellia Society

www.homerrichardson.com/camellia

Camellia Society of North Florida

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html

Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/FWBCCamelliaSociety

Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society

www.afn.org/-camellia/

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.gulfcoastcamellias.org

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society

Mobile Camellia Society

www.mobilecamellia.org

Northshore Camellia Society

www.northshorecamelliasociety.org

Pensacola Camellia Club

www.pensacolacamellioclub.com

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

An Invitation to Join Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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 August through July each year. Life Membership is available at 20 times the annual membership - \$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.

**Our next annual meeting is scheduled for October 15-16, 2012
at the Natchez Grand Hotel, Natchez, Miss.**

The meeting includes hospitality, supper, and auction on Monday, and breakfast, educational sessions, and banquet on Tuesday. The educational sessions provide an opportunity to share experiences and learn of the latest developments from leading camellia growers from near and far. The annual meeting is an outstanding opportunity to renew old acquaintances or make new ones, and start the new camellia season in a really enthusiastic way!

To join, send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, along with your payment to *Gulf Coast Camellia Society*, in care of Peter Soules, 22128 5th St., Abita Springs, LA 70420.

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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Frankie Winn Var.