

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Spring 2013

Volume 39 No. 2



“Elaine”

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society

The Gulf Coast
Camellian

Volume 39 No. 2

Spring 2013

President’s Messagepage 3

From the Cover.....page 4

Photo Gallery.....page 5

The new Camellia on the Block.....page 4

From a Gardener’s Journal.....page 10

Greenhouse Growing - Part 4page 11

Pensacola Camellia Club Workshop and Sale.....page 14

Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual Meeting.....page 16

Changing Camellia Colors.....page 17

Camellias in the Window.....page 18

New Grafting Tips.....page 20

Camellia Quiz.....page 22

In the Spring Garden.....page 23

In Memorium.....page 24

The Mathotiana Family.....page 26

Editor’s Note.....page 27

Camellia Websites.....page 29

About the Gulf Coast Camellia Society.....page 30

GCCS Officers.....page 31



President's Message

Lynn Vicknair

This message comes with equal amounts of sadness and nostalgia. The camellia community lost a great camellia lover and advocate in Elaine Smelley. She left us on January 19, 2013, fittingly on the day of the Mobile show. Those that were there were able to reminisce and share stories of her. All the recollections seemed to go back to camellias in some way. We all cherished our time with her. She will be dearly missed.

The loss of Mrs. Elaine and all the stories shared got me thinking of my introduction to camellias. Do you remember the first time a camellia “called your name” and pulled you in for a closer look? I remember... it was during my grandfather’s funeral. Oh how he loved his camellias! I clearly remember him working so lovingly on his plants and always bringing fresh blooms into the house for everyone to

enjoy. He passed away in the winter so my family had the blanket for his casket made of fresh picked camellias from his garden. It was beautiful and so personal. I studied each bloom carefully in awe. Years later I was amazed to discover there are clubs to keep feeding the hunger to learn more about these amazing flowers and there are shows to display all of the beautiful blooms.

My wonder of camellias has led me to my current position as president of GCCS and I have continued my love of the shows by trying to attend each show in the gulf coast region. I started in Fort Walton Beach and I am working my way west. I am sorry I will not make it to Texas this year as there is a conflict with the ACS convention.

I am sure everyone has a personal story or memory of when their camellia journey began. We need to share our

love of these beautiful flowers. Now, while they are blooming, take your flowers to your office, church, gym, doctor's office, library, bank, or any other place where they will be enjoyed by others. What better way to recruit much needed new members for our clubs? We need club members to volunteer to speak at gardening or community events. Keep talking about camellias to anyone who will listen...and fall in love with camellias all over again.

Please send Kenn any news you have about your club, a special club member, or yourself.

Don't forget to send your dues and contact information to Peter.

Make your plans to attend the next GCCS meeting in Spanish Fort.

Make your donation to ACS "Friends of Camellias" campaign.



From Our Cover

"ELAINE"

Named for Elaine Smelley.

It's not yet registered, but the paperwork is in the mill. By the way, it won best seedling at the Mobile show on the day she died. Hooton



PHOTO GALLERY

Pictures of Camellias sent by our readers.



*“Elaine’s Betty Pink Variegated.”
Photo by Norman Vickers.*



“Snow Chan,” a pure white sport of “Shiro Chan,” Nuccio 1957. Photo by Norman Vickers.



“Tomorrow White,” a sport of “Tomorrow” is rarely seen at shows. By J. Movich, LaVerne, CA 1984. Photo from Randolph Maphis.



“Lundy’s Legacy,” registered posthumously for T.E. Lundy by Skip Vogelsang. Photo by Norman Vickers.



Another not often seen, “Monticello,” a non-retic hybrid by Dave Feathers, Lafayette, CA 1959. Photo: Kenn Campbell.



“Kyle White” an old unregistered c. japonica growing at Kyle Estates in New Iberia. LA. Photo by Dr. Trent James .

The New Camellia on the Block

By Nigel Melican

About every Southerner will recognize a *Camellia japonica* at 40 paces, and at a pinch a fair number of other ornamental *Camellia* species – but too few have ever seen a bush of *Camellia sinensis*. Well, all that's about to change as Jason McDonald, a Brookhaven, MS, farmer prepares to plant out a single field of 60,000 bushes of genuine honest-to-goodness real old-fashioned tea (*Camellia sinensis* (L.) O.Kuntze).

There are one or two pocket handkerchief sized patches of tea growing in the USA but commercial success requires a minimum of 10 to 20 acres and a high-tech low-labor approach to tea husbandry and harvesting. Jason's FiLoLi Tea Farm is accepting the challenge of sifting through 3,000 years of tea growing myth and lore, extracting the nuggets of practical expertise, and grafting them on to modern automation to make it work. And,

if anyone can do that, my money has to be on the eclectic and dynamic Colonel Jason Alexander McDonald.

Tea growing in the USA already has a long fascinating history, though mainly of failed ventures. It started in South Carolina in 1795 when French

botanist Andre Michaux planted a few seeds of tea and of *C. japonica*, brought home from China by sailors; these thrived but the tea plants were neglected in favor of the showy japonica flowers. Much later, around 1848, Dr. Julius Smith experimented with tea growing near



Camellia sinensis – a small shy flower

Greenville, SC, and another physician Dr. Jones planted tea in McIntosh, GA, for a few years. By 1858, the US government was sufficiently interested in the potential of American tea growing to commission the now infamous Robert Fortune to return to China

for more seed. These were handed out to farmers in six Southern States but the venture foundered. Interest was rekindled in 1880 when US Commissioner for Agriculture William G. le Duc, recruited John Jackson from India to plant tea on 200 acres of land in Summerville, SC. Seed was imported from China, Japan and India plus some from surviving John Fortune plants; some tea was manufactured and well received, but the venture was abandoned due to Jackson's ill health.

Tea growing in Summerville was revived in 1890 by chemist Dr. Charles Upham Shepard whose work was recognized by the USDA and who appointed him Special Agent for Tea Culture. Shepard's farm was known as Pinehurst Tea Garden and it flourished, receiving substantial federal aid annually between 1900 and 1915. During this time he increased planting to 125 acres with a peak production of 15,000 lbs of tea. Most of the plucking was done by children for a small wage and free schooling. In parallel with Dr. Shepard's more technical approach, Major Roswell D. Trimble set up the distinctly commercial American Tea Growing Company in 1901. Under Colonel August c. Tyler (Trimble's retired superior officer), they bought 6,500 acres of rice land at Rantowles, mid way between Savanna and Charleston, and planted out 600,000 tea bushes. Meanwhile ATG marketed Pinehurst's tea crop,

buying Shepard's entire production in 1902, but on Tyler's death in 1903 the venture collapsed. The Pinehurst collection of tea plants grew wild until they were acquired by T.J. Lipton in the early 1960s and transferred to Wadmalaw Island, onto the then newly established Lipton Tea Research Station. The collection may still be seen planted in its original blocks in Field #1 of the now commercial Charleston Tea Farm purchased by Bigelow Tea Company in 2003.



Mississippi it turns out has just about ideal conditions for tea growing, and despite the many false starts made since 1795 Jason is ready to challenge the myth that a high cost economy cannot make a success of tea growing. However, Jason will not be entirely on his own in this venture. He has recently appointed international tea consultant Nigel Melican of Teacraft Technical Services to supply agricultural advice and support. Nigel has more than 30 years' practical experience in tea nurseries, fields and factories around the world – he has been known to boast, over a sundowner

on a tea plantation veranda, that he has manufactured tea on six of the seven continents; certainly, at the last count, in 26 different tea growing countries.

Left to its own devices *Camellia sinensis var. sinensis* (Chinese tea) will grow into a 15 foot tree and its larger cousin *Camellia sinensis var. assamica* (Indian tea) can top 25 feet. Naturally this creates a difficulty when harvesting the valuable green leaves—the ‘two leaf and a bud’ tips that give the very best quality tea. It’s no secret that in the early 19th Century the British East India Company were bartering opium for Chinese tea, and when the Chinese banned further supply of tea the British stole tea seed from China to set up tea estates in North East India. But, while they had the seed, they lacked the Chinese tea growing expertise, so it was touch and go for a while. This ignorance was not entirely a bad thing however, and necessity soon proved the mother of invention. The Chinese had accepted the problem of harvesting leaf from tall tea trees, after all they had done it that way for thousands of years. The inventive British planters who created the Assam tea industry in the 1830s, untroubled by tradition, pruned the trees down to waist high bushes and planted them densely. This was to be a master stroke as it not only revolutionized the ergonomics of leaf collection but also encouraged vigorous juvenile leaf growth – the crop – and, in total

opposition to what the Camellia society folk would want, discouraged flowering and seed production at the expense of leaf.

Modern tea cultivars have been selected to resist flowering though the older seed derived bushes will lapse into flowering mode if not kept under control. Young tea garden superintendents used to get their bums kicked if the manager ever saw a flower – symptomatic of under fertilizing (tea loves nitrogen), insufficient water, and being too lenient on the pruning.

FiLoLi Tea Farm’s initial 60,000 bushes will be transplanted into the field in the spring of 2014. The land is already cleared and drained and irrigation is being put in place. Tea plants are generally raised from cuttings and these need six months to root and establish themselves in a greenhouse nursery, then another six months under shade to strengthen and harden off.

We shall be machine planting – this is not often done in the tea world, where manual labor is cheap; the 60,000 FiLoLi plants will fill about 12 acres of land, planted in long hedges to facilitate harvesting. The first three years in the field are given over to training the bush into a format that will maximize leaf growth and support a strong harvest table; training is applied as a series of sequential prunes. We shall use specially designed imported tea machines running on metal tracks alongside the hedges to apply the training cuts, and from the fourth



A large tea nursery producing plants from cuttings in Pakistan



Rwanda Green Velvet- a monoculture of Camellia sinensis in Rwanda - there are about 10 million acres of tea plants growing around the world producing around 2 trillion cups of tea every year.



New Flush 2012 - a hedge of tea being mechanically harvested in Japan

year when a commercial yield can be harvested, the same machines will pluck green leaf from the bushes on a 21 day rotation. Organic fertilizer will be supplied to the plants as required, through the irrigation system. By using the very best machinery and by good management of the automated husbandry FiLoLi Farm will attain high yields of tip top quality specialty teas at a reasonable cost of production. This is an approach to tea growing that has not yet been seen in the USA.

Nigel Melican
Teacraft Ltd



Filoli's first wave of tea plants in propagation house.

From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson
Brookhaven, Mississippi



The friendship and fellowship among camellia judges.

We moved to Brookhaven twenty three years ago. The first club of any kind we joined was the Brookhaven Camellia Society. We went to the show on a Saturday afternoon when it was held right after Thanksgiving. The show was then held in the lobby of State Bank in downtown Brookhaven. The blooms were so lovely and enchanting that we fell in love then and there. We bought bushes from the vendors and embarked on a lifelong journey of growing and loving these wonderful plants. I had been disappointed to learn that they would not grow in northwestern New Jersey without a greenhouse. Silly me! We attended the Christmas party of the Society and found that camellia devotees were fun, generous and very knowledgeable about growing these lovely things.

Several years later our late friend and mentor Thomas Perkins encouraged those of us who were interested to become novice judges. I can truthfully say that it was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life! I had learned some things by being a clerk at our shows, but not nearly all that I wanted to know. I had known that

the judges were nice and pleasant to be around. It was only after I had become a novice judge that it was possible to ask questions and truly learn about the blooms. I was privileged to work with some of the most experienced and helpful people in the camellia world. They were truly interested in helping this inexperienced and nervous novice to learn.

So many of these wonderful people are gone now. Hank and Vi Stone, Boozie Becker, our own dear Thomas Perkins. Others were Charlie Bush, Pat Patterson, Bill la Rose, Hyman Norsworthy and Greg Davis. The latest of these wonderful friends we have lost was Elaine Smelley. She was kind, gracious, patient and always ready to help identify a bloom, show how it should be displayed to advantage and wish you success. She will be greatly missed. Our love and sympathy go to her husband Jim, another very good friend to new and old judges.

It is my hope that we as judges can be as kind, helpful and full of knowledge as these departed friends. In future perhaps we will be held in high esteem as we have held these wonderful people. 🌸

GREENHOUSE GROWING - PART 4

Propagation and Disease Control



By Mark Crawford
Valdosta, GA

Photos by Mark Crawford

If you are serious grower and exhibit flowers in shows you are well aware that most of the prize-winning camellias are not commercially available. The few that are available are small plants sold by a few specialized nurseries, some clubs or mail ordered through Nuccios in California. This very limited availability makes it necessary to root, graft or air-layer your own plants.

Grafting is the best option for growing a plant that will flower in the shortest time period. Scions for grafting are shared among growers and can be purchased from a few suppliers. The most limiting part of grafting is the availability of rootstock. Rootstock can be propagated by cuttings or by seed. Personally I prefer cuttings of specific varieties that have good performance as rootstock and ease of grafting. What I mean by ease of grafting are plants with straight lower stems that develop good caliper in 2 years from a cutting. Varieties such as “Kumagai Nagoya,” “Hagoromo,” “Honglusen”, and “Maidens Blush”.

“Kanjiro” is an excellent rootstock except it is slower to develop a good caliper and has a tendency to sprout at the base for many years after grafting.

Years of pruning to keep plants within the confines of the greenhouse can result in reduced vigor and become more susceptible to disease. To keep your plants in good shape you should propagate new plants and replace the old version. Replacing plants every 6 - 8 years will promote good vigor and flowering and reduce crowding caused by overgrown plants.

Crowding results in an increase in disease and insect problems. Insect control was discussed in part 3 so will focus on disease issues now. Greenhouse growing provides the perfect environment for disease development and must be monitored frequently. During the bloom season your primary concern is flower blight and petal blight. These are not the same disease and require different methods of control.

Flower blight caused by *Botrytis cinerea* also known as Gray Mold attacks the flowers under cool

moist conditions. Keeping free water off the flowers is important to prevent Botrytis infection. That is why you want to avoid any overhead irrigation. Another problem is condensation dripping from the greenhouse ceiling. The best way to avoid this is to have a double layer of plastic with an air space between the 2 layers. Another way is to have a fan circulating the air at all times. Botrytis can be

and infect your flowers. It is difficult to keep the greenhouse closed during the bloom season since we have warm sunny days during the winter when ventilation is needed.

The fungicides Strike and Terraclor sold by OHP are labeled for petal blight control and are applied to the soil to inhibit spore production by the sclerotia. This is an effective treatment if applied at



Flower Blight caused by the fungus Botrytis cinera.



Petal Blight on the left showing classic fungal ring compared with Flower Blight (right) without fungal ring around center of flower

suppressed by keeping the greenhouse above 68°F but this is not a good option for camellias.

Petal blight is another problem that plagues camellias in and outside the greenhouse. Petal blight caused by the fungus *Ciborinia camelliae* is often confused with Botrytis flower blight. (See photo) Your best defense is to pick up all the fallen flowers and discard them in the trash so they are taken off your property. Do not compost flowers as the resting structure of the fungus is a sclerotia that can survive in the soil for several years. Even in the greenhouse, spores from outside can enter through openings

the correct time when the sclerotia are active but before spores are produced. Fungicides applied directly to open flowers can be effective but results are variable and will probably spot the flowers.

Dieback caused by the fungus *Glomerella cingulata* is another disease problem to contend with inside the greenhouse. The disease causes entire limbs to turn brown and die and is characterized by cankers that girdle the stems. The first symptoms show up as a wilting of new growth followed by shoot death. Crowding and excess moisture aggravates this problem and is why proper pruning is

essential. Open plants dry out faster reducing favorable conditions for the fungus. In the spring when old leaves fall is when infection takes place because there is an open wound on the stem associated with leaf drop for a few days. This is a good time to apply a fungicide to protect your plants from infection. Limbs with dieback cankers should be removed below the point of infection and burned. Cut areas

frequent weeds in the winter in the landscape and the greenhouse. In the winter when the greenhouse is covered your only option is to hand-weed as most of the herbicides safe on camellias cannot be used in closed structures. Herbicides can be used in the summer if no cover is present. Popular weed control products are Preen, Snapshot, OH2, Rout and Showcase. These are all preemergence products that work by preventing weed seed from germinating and have no effect on emerged weeds.

Now for a review of growing protected camellias, you will make the following decisions



Dieback symptom prior to limb death on left compared to the dark green healthy foliage right



Advanced dieback canker.

should be painted with some type of wound paint to prevent infection of the cut surface.

Greenhouse culture does come with its share of weeds that must be controlled. Weeds like chickweed, henbit, oxalis, wild geranium and annual bluegrass to name a few are

1. Decide if you want to grow protected camellias.
2. Choose type of greenhouse – Build your own out of wood or purchase a metal structure that you can erect yourself or have installed by professionals.
3. Where to place the greenhouse – under trees or in the open
4. Incorporate raised beds or plant ground level. Will plants be in the ground or in pots?
5. Type of irrigation, shade cloth, fertilizer, and pest control.
6. Most important of all – choose the camellias you want to grow and show.

This is the final chapter on greenhouse growing that reviews my talk given at the GCCS meeting in Bay St, Louis.





Skip Vogelsang sets up the camellia display.



*C. japonica "Margaret Davis"
Australia 1961.*



*Pensacola Camellia Club
President John Davy*



Pensacola Camellia Club



Randy Tronu, Mareen DeWeese and Cindy Tronu observe Reid Leonard grafting.



Winkie Rhea and Mack Thetford look on as Dr. Bill Bennett grafts.



Al Jepperson and Norma English man the plant sale table. Sales exceeded \$900.



A favorite Pensacola variety, "Lady Laura," by T. E. Lundy, Pensacola, FL 1972.

Photos by Norman Vickers

Workshop and Sale



(l. To r.) John Davy, Skip Vogelsang and Dick Hooton examine some blooms.



(L. To r.) George Knight looks on at membership table manned by Judy Kerr and Sandra Sherman.



Some of Skip's camellias, "Frank Houser Var.," "Tom Herrin," "Night Rider" and "Tomorrow Park Hill." Roger Vinson and Reidand Leland Lenard also brought exquisite blooms.

*You are invited to the
Gulf Coast Camellia Society
51st Annual Meeting.
October 14 & 15, 2013*

*By Ed and Vickie Baugh
Camellia Club of Mobile*



Please join your camellia friends, and make new friends, Monday, October 14, and Tuesday, October 15, 2013. The two day program will be in Spanish Fort, Alabama, on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay

For more info, www.alabamarivers.com

The educational program on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 will be at the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center. The Resource Center's conservation land is the gateway to Alabama's largest national natural landmark, and is the second largest river delta in America.



The Center is situated on the Mobile Bay Causeway (Hwy 98). Three buildings are part of the meeting complex – an auditorium, a reception hall, and a delta wildlife museum (which houses the “new friends” in the previous photo).

Lunch will be served facing the delta.

Changing Camellia Colors

By Brenda Litchfield, Mobile, AL

When is a white camellia a yellow one? Or a blue one, green one? Easy with the help of some food coloring and a couple days. I read about this activity in an old Journal awhile back. It was presented as a fun activity for children so I thought I would try it. It turned out to be a lot of fun for an adult!

I used small candle holders and mixed up strong solutions of yellow, blue, green, and red food colors. I used four “White



Empress” blooms that were fresh. I put each one in a color and waited. It took about two days for the color to reach its maximum saturation.

It was interesting how the stamens and just the edges of the petals absorbed the color. I kept them in the color for several days to see if the color would show up in the petal but it didn't.

I tried my “White by the Gate” and “Alba Plena” but they did not do as well as what I think



was a “White Empress.” I am thinking that their petals may be too thick to absorb the color well. I did not try “Seafoam.”

Now that I know how to set this up I want to try several other varieties and color combinations. I wonder how a red and white like “Miss Charleston Var” or pink and white like “Betty Sheffield Var” would do in yellow or blue? How about “China Doll” in green? How about a “Margaret Davis” or “Nuccio’s Gem” in purple?

And they said this was fun just for kids! 🌸



Camellias in the Window

By *Bette Hooton, Pensacola, FL*

What a lovely Sunday afternoon we had walking through the camellia-filled yard of Quint and Rishy Studer (owner of our Blue Wahoos baseball team here in Pensacola). The Studers bought the old Sherrill house which was built in 1933. This home was the site of the first meeting of the *Men's Camellia Club* in 1937; and John Sherrill, a charter member, had offered his home which sits above beautiful Pensacola Bay and on the small body of water that connects Bayou Texar with the bay. The Studers are in the process of renovating this exquisite historical home and offered a 'guided' tour of the house and yard to the camellia club Board.

With camera in hand, I sat in front of a warm fireplace and looked up to see the blooming flowers through the dark wood-framed windows. What a sight to see "Dr. Tinsley," "R.L.Wheeler," "Drama Girl," and such new varieties as "Sea Foam." The reds were vibrant against the window's glass. So I used my I-phone's camera which suddenly seemed so out-of-place in that living room.

And so our shows and our season are winding down.





Brookhaven was fun, and Brookhaven has the best cooks—food is fantastic. But we have a small problem at our house, actually a large problem—an extra refrigerator. Dick bought himself a Christmas present—a fine-looking 18 cubic foot cold storage for you-know-what. It sits in the garage and has been filled with flowers before every show. It's almost empty now, except for the 'blue ice', which makes for expensive storage. He told me that Walter Creighton has 3 refrigerators. I wonder what Alice puts in them in the off-season—I'll have to ask her.

Jimmy Buffett brought Mike and Geri Jinks to Pensacola, and Vickie and Al Baugh coincidentally had planned to visit the same day. All gathered in our yard to marvel at "Frank Houser" and at the as-yet-unregistered "Jim Smelley." But Mike and Geri had to head to the Parrotheads Party, so the Baugh's and Hooton's went to lunch on the bayou.

And on a final note, I have a beautiful picture of a beautiful flower named for a beautiful lady on my I-phone. This seedling that had been measured (gibbed) at 8.75 inches by its originator serves as a reminder to me of how beautiful life continues to be.



New Grafting Tips

By John Davy

Two years ago I grafted on the first week of January and hit 90%. I believe you can graft until the sap flows. I do some things differently than many do.



John Davy

1. I prefer bench grafting to crawling around on the ground.
2. I prefer grafting on seedlings over cuttings. But, if I use cuttings, I like to graft on “Higo Higoromo” because of its vigor and cold-hardiness.
3. I keep two spray bottles when I graft. One bottle filled with 1% bleach (1 part household bleach to nine parts water) and another bottle filled with fungicide. I pretreat all

my stumps/understock (usually the day before I graft) with the bleach, avoiding runoff. I use a rough rag to clean the stumps.

4. I cover the soil in the container with clean builder's sand.
5. I always use the freshest scions possible and never allow them to dry out.
6. After placing the graft, I treat the graft union with 1500 ppm KIBA to enhance callous. I use an eyedropper for the liquid hormone.



“Higo Higoromo” makes excellent grafting stock.

7. I cover the graft union with moist natural sphagnum moss held in place by frog tape.
8. I spray the entire scion, sphagnum, and stock with the fungicide.
9. I prefer to cover my grafts with a 1 gallon milk jug with the bottom cut off, pushing the cut off end into the washed sand. I use coat hangers or iron wire bent in a U-shape to hold the milk jug in place (2 per graft.)

10. I prefer grafting on understock grown in 3 gallon root maker pots.

11. I place the grafts in a protected area out of the sun and the rain. I believe many overwater new grafts in containers.

I water once or twice a week depending on the weather. When watering I totally flood the plants. Root maker pots drain water and dry more quickly than normal pots.

12. I cover the group of grafts with burlap, to insure that they get no direct light and to insure that they dry at the same rate. This also helps prevent any milk jug tops from blowing over and gives some cold protection and dog and/or varmint protection.

13. Once callous and bud growth begins, I harden/acclimate the grafts by moving them to a shaded poly

house under a mist system (10 seconds every 15 minutes between 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on sunny days, off on all rainy days -- weather awareness is critical in the early

stages.) At this point, I keep the milk jugs covered with the burlap.

On the first all day, long rainy day I remove the plastic lids of the milk jugs to let in a little air. One to two weeks later as the grafts are beginning to flush I remove (and save) the entire milk jug leaving the coat hangers in the pots to protect the new growth. At this point, I begin to reduce the mist and I water as needed.

I hope this helps. I usually hit about 90+%

using this method.



C. japonica "Mary Edna Curlee" by M. Beach, Mt. Pleasant, S.C. 1996. Photo from Roger Maphis.



C. japonica "Woodville Red Blush," sport of "Woodville Red." L.G. Thomas, Mobile, AL 1961.

[The above article was borrowed from the newsletter of the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club provide by Randolph Maphis.]



Camellia Quiz

The top winners for camellia shows for the year 2010/2011 are listed in the 2011 ACS Yearbook. Can you name these? Answers on page 27.



Best Very Large Japonica

#1 _____



Best Large Japonica

#2 _____



Best Medium Japonica

#3 _____



Best Reticulata

#4 _____



Best Non-Reticulata Hybrid

#5 _____



Best White

#6 _____

In the Spring Garden

By Art Landry



Spring is a busy time in the Camellia garden. Some of the late blooming varieties are still giving us some blooms and it's time to prune, spray, and fertilize smaller plants that need it. It's also the time to finish spring grafting, do air layers, and do a general cleanup of the plants, such as removing all old blooms and buds, weak limbs, etc.

Most of our members use a thick mulch of leaves, bark, or pine straw each year around established plants. Selective pruning of weak or infested limbs should be practiced by all growers. Some members have found that a pruning program on established plants can be used instead of fertilizer. Removal of about 10-20% of the branches will stimulate the plant into re-establishing the balance between roots and branches, putting out vigorous new growth to replace the pruned branches. Pruning can also be used to control the size and height of the plant so that they will remain a desirable size and shape. You will be rewarded with a healthy, vigorous plant with superior blooms.

Those plants not yet large enough to prune back extensively will benefit from a simple fertilizer program of an application now and another light feeding in summer. You can use a commercial Camellia fertilizer (or "Nursery Special" or "Growers Supreme" with time release nitrogen and containing trace elements) or make your own by mixing two parts cottonseed meal with one part of a

balanced fertilizer (like "8-8-8"). Some of our members also like to add a small amount of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to the mix (1 part to 25 parts mix) to help release trace elements locked in the soil. Use a cup or so of your mix to each plant.

Those who grow camellias in containers have their own program of fertilization involving feeding every month to replace nutrients lost with each watering. Timed release fertilizers will help reduce the work and frequency involved.

March and April are good times to spray to control scale and other pests. Malathion usually controls red spider mites and aphids, which often appear on plants at this time. Neem Oil can be used to control scale, mites and other pests at the same time. Dormant Oil or "Ultrafine Oil" still work fine for scale and are non-toxic.

Dieback can be a problem all year long in our area, but the greatest exposure to the infection seems to be in the spring when the old leaves fall off or limbs are pruned or otherwise damaged. Prune away all infected limbs down below the canker or wound on the limb or trunk and treat with Captan and benomyl. Pruning paint is optional. Dry benomyl added to water-soluble pruning paint seems to work well when painted on the treated area. Sterilize your pruning tools often using fungicide or chlorine bleach solution to keep them clean while you do the pruning.



In Memoriam:

ELAINE W. SMELLEY

Elaine W. Smelley, 83 of Moss Point, passed from this life on Saturday, January 19, 2013, after a mercifully short illness. She was born December 30, 1929, in Moss Point, Mississippi. Mrs. Smelley was retired after 38 years with AT&T. She was a certified judge of Camellia flowers and member of the Mobile Camellia Club, Gulf Coast Camellia Society, and American Camellia Society. She was also a Daylily judge, member of the American Hemerocallis Society and a Garden Club judge for many years.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, James "Jim" Smelley of Moss Point. Entombment was at Jackson County Memorial Park in Pascagoula.

Elaine was a member of many camellia clubs and societies, but chose to call the Camellia Club of Mobile her "home" club. The past forty years or more have seen one or the other of the Smelleys serving as a member of our Club's Board. Elaine knew so much about camellias and running a camellia Club, and would always share her experience and advice if asked.

Elaine regularly gave a slide show presentation for old and new members at our meetings, always with lots of information on the old, new and as yet un-named varieties



Jim and Elaine Smelley when Elaine won a shower set at a Camellia Club of Mobile raffle.

that she showed us. The Club's trips to the Smelleys' greenhouses in Agricola, Mississippi, were a great treat that was always well attended.

One of the loveliest camellias registered in recent years is, of course, "Elaine's Betty" a superbly gorgeous sport of "Betty Sheffield" developed by Jim and Elaine. It was honored with the cover of the 1999 Camellia Nomenclature book.

Elaine's strength and dedication to our Club was demonstrated in her last few weeks when she was determined that the Show Judges she had organized for so many years would continue undeterred by her illness. It was a very sad moment when the news reached us at the Camellia Show that Elaine had passed at almost the very moment the judging was completed.

The loss of this delightful generous lady has left a hole in the heart of our Club and in the heart of the camellia world. Elaine's

visitation and service were attended by camellia friends from at least five different states, with loving eulogies offered by Randolph Maphis of the Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee and by Col. Dick Hooten of the Pensacola Camellia Club. Our love and sincere sympathy goes out to Jim Smelley on the loss of Elaine, who was truly (to use an old-fashioned but most appropriate word) a gentlewoman.

CHARLES W. MERRITT, JR.



Charles W. Merritt, Jr. was born in Pensacola on April 28, 1914. He died in Pensacola on February 3, 2013. He attended local schools and graduated in 1932 from Pensacola High School. While at PHS, Charlie lettered in both football and golf.

In December of 1937, Charlie was invited to a gathering of fellow Pensacolians who were interested in forming an organization dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of the camellia. That meeting led to the formation of the Pensacola Men’s Camellia Club and Charlie Merritt

was one of its charter members. He was an active member of the Club for over 75 years. During that time he served as President, first in 1954 and again in 1963. He was named “Man of the Year” in 1981. He was an enthusiastic participant in the Annual Camellia Shows and more often than not, his blooms appeared on the Head Table.

Although Charlie Merritt’s last years were spent at Azalea Trace, he continued to participate in Club events to the extent that his health permitted. His dues were paid to the very end! He – and that infectious smile of his – will be sorely missed. Charlie Merritt was a winner in every sense of the word.

JERRY K. CONRAD

Mr. Jerry K. Conrad, age 69 of Plymouth, Florida passed away on Monday, January 14, 2013 in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Conrad was born on February 22, 1943 in Covington, Kentucky.



*Jerry K. Conrad
(1943 - 2013)*

The Mathotiana Family

When we think of new varieties, we usually think in terms of newly developed seedlings. However, over the years, many of our most popular camellias have originated as mutations (sports) of previously introduced cultivars. Here is one family derived from the ever popular “Mathotiana,” better known in the Gulf South as “Purple Dawn.” “Mathotiana” is a seedling of “Anemoniflora” x “Sieboldii” raised by M. Mathot in Ghent, Belgium. It was brought to the U.S. in the 1840s by Magnolia Gardens and Nursery in South Carolina.

As described in the International Camellia Register, ‘the flower is of the most beautiful cerise-red very large .. the petals are large, very well imbricated and adhere strongly to the tortus, the type of flower which remains for a long time on the plant and it acquires in the end a purple violet colour. The plant is distinguished by its vigorous habit; its branches are strong, brown and very heavily foliaged; the leaves are very large and thick, of a dark green and very dentate.’ Here’s the family:



1. “Mathotiana” 1840s [aka Mathotiana Rubra, PurpleDawn, Purple Emperor, Purple Prince, William S. Hastie] L-VL Crimson, sometime with Purple cast, rose form double.



2. “Mathotiana Var.” - Scarlet blotched White form of “Mathotiana.”



3. “Rosea Superba” (Europe to U.S. 1890) [aka Ada Wilson, Laura Dasher] - L-VL Rose Pink sport of Mathotiana.



4. “Rosea Superba Var.” - variegated form of Rosea Superba, Rose Pink spotted White.



5. “Red Wonder” (U.S. 1948, Armstrong) [aka Island Echo] Sport of “Mathotiana,” Deep Red, large semidouble to rose form double with two or more rows of outer petals and center of long, folded and curled inner petals.



8. “Flowerwood” (U.S. 1951, Tochi Domoto, Hayward, CA) [aka Mathotiana Fimbriata] Sport of “Mathotiana,” large fimbriated petals. See note below.



10. “Sultana” (U.S. 1955, McCaskill Gardens, Pasadena, CA) L-VL sport of “Mathotiana,” scarlet semidouble to peony form.

6. “Mathotiana Supreme” (U.S. 1951-Flowerwood) [aka Mima-Mae] Sport of “Mathotiana,” semidouble, irregular petals interspersed with stamen.



7. “Mathotiana Supreme Var.” [aka Avery Island, Kate Smith] Sport of “Mathotiana Supreme,” Scarlet blotched White.

9. “Flowerwood Var.” Variegated form of “Flowerwood.”

11. “Eugenia Howell” (U.S. 1958, V.T. Howell, Simmes, AL) Sport of “Mathotiana Var.,” Very large loose peony form Deep Pink to Red splotched White.

12. “Sue Ann Mouton” (U.S. 1960, in Broussard, LA) Sport of “Mathotiana Supreme” VL lighter color.

13. “Mathotiana Special” (U.S. 1961, R. Lang, Atlanta, GA) Sport of “Mathotiana.” A variegated form of “Mathotiana” with fewer and larger white spots.

14. “Brooksie’s Rosea” (U.S. 1965, Mrs. B. Anderson, Timmonsville, SC.) Highly variegated form of “Rosea Superba” L-VL.

15. “Cherry Bounce” (U.S. 1969, G.E. Carver, Jr., Houston, TX) Sport of “Mathotiana Supreme.” Large dark Cherry Red rose form double with deeply creped petals.

NOTE:

“Flowerwood” seems to have lost its fimbriations much like “Ville de Nantes” has done. None of the flowers or pictures I have seen show any signs of fimbriations. - Ed.

Editor's Note

By Kenn Campbell



What a wonderful camellia season we had. 2012 was a great year for camellia plants with plenty of rain throughout the year and no hard freezes. The blooms were fat and beautiful. But now that the show season is over, we can get down to serious maintenance chores such as weeding, spraying, pruning, adjusting mulch, etc.

Thanks to all the contributors who continue to surprise me with unusual and interesting articles for the *Camellian*. You make it a success.

I do have a request that will help make my life easier. I receive pictures of flowers and groups of people with just a number. Much to my regret, I don't know by sight the names of all the people in the Society or all the flowers grown in the region. So please, before you send the pictures, change the file name to identify the content of the picture. The captions can be sent separately in the e-mail. Also try to send high resolution pictures. Anything less than about 500 KB will not print the way you would like to see them.

Deadline for the Summer issue is 15 May 2013.

Judges School

A Judges' School and Re-accreditation Symposium will be held April 6, 2013 at First United Methodist Church 2301 15th St. Gulfport, MS. The class will start at 9:30 AM for new judges. \$15.00 per person (light lunch included) Re-accreditation will start at 12:30 PM Please send reservation to Susan Moran at Moranelect@gmail.com or phone #228-392-3792

Camellia Quiz Answers

1. V.L. Lauren Tudor,
2. L. Royal Velvet,
3. M. Black Magic,
4. Retic. Frank Houser,
5. N.R. Cile Mitchell,
6. Wh. Melissa Anne

Got six right - You didn't miss a show. Got 4-5 right - Very good, but go to more shows next year. Got 1-3 right - Cheat next time and look in the Yearbook.

Camellia Websites

American Camellia Society

www.americancamellias.org

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

Baton Rouge Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/brcamellias

Birmingham Camellia Society

www.birminghamcamellias.com

Brookhaven Camellia Society

www.homerrichardson.com/camellia

Camellia Society of North Florida

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html

Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety

Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society

www.afn.org/-camellia/

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.gulfcoastcamellias.org

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society

Mobile Camellia Society

www.mobilecamellia.org

Northshore Camellia Society

www.northshorecamelliasociety.org

Pensacola Camellia Club

www.pensacolacamellioclub.com

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

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society was organized in 1962 for the purpose of extending appreciation and enjoyment of camellias. The Society strives to provide information to its members about all aspects of the care and culture of camellia plants as well as the exhibiting and showing of camellia blooms. The Society also serves as a forum for members to share and exchange information and experiences with other members.

Annual dues for membership in the Gulf Coast Camellia Society are \$10.00 for individuals and \$12.00 for couples. Membership runs from August through July 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 Peter Soules, 22128 5th St., Abita Springs, LA 70420.



"Willard Scott," by Vi Stone, Baton Rouge, LA. 1986



"Omega," by Hodie Wilson, Hammond, LA. 1965



"Alice Creighton," by Walter Creighton, Semmes, AL. 2003



"Lauren Tudor Pink," by Hulyn Smith, Valdosta, GA.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Officers 2012 - 2014

President	Lynn Vicknair 1632 Steele Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (225) 343-8708 Lynnv@cox.net
Vice-President	Jim Dwyer 14040 Riverside Dr. Foley, AL 36535 (251) 988-1405 Jdwyer@gulftel.com
Treasurer	Peter Soules 22128 5th St. Abita Springs, LA 70420 (985) 893-2418 peterabita@hotmail.com
Secretary	Lynnette Soules 22128 5th St. Abita Springs, LA 70420 (985) 893-2418 lynnabita@hotmail.com
Editor	Kenneth B. Campbell 3310 Fairway Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (225) 923-1697 kennbc@cox.net

State Vice Presidents

Alabama	Jim Dwyer
California	Steve Mefford
Florida	Carol Comber
Georgia	Mark Crawford
Louisiana	Jim Campbell
Mississippi	James Smelley, Carl Moran
North Carolina	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	Richard Frank
Texas	Claudette Shelter

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

Copyright 2013

Printed by IPC Printing, Baton Rouge, LA

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society
3310 Fairway Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-1817



“Mary Corley” c. japonica by Tom Corley, Auburn, AL 2004