

February  
2016

# VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

## A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

Winter has not been too bad this year with camellias blooming all over town. The recent storm knocked off many flowers but there are more buds to open to extend the bloom season for another few weeks. Frank Houser was in all its glory last week and will probably be gone by the end of next week. Now is the time to think about pruning overgrown plants, fertilizing, and picking up all those dead flowers.

We had two camellia shows in the area since our last meeting in Quitman and Thomasville. Both were excellent shows with well over 1000 flowers on display. This was a great opportunity to see japonicas, reticulatas, and hybrids that can be successfully grown in our area. The next show is Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Camellia Society headquarters in Fort Valley. If you have not visited Masee Lane Gardens this is a great time for a visit for a show and garden experience.

Waxing camellias and pruning big plants are the topics for our February 23 meeting. Bring your favorite flowers to the meeting to wax so you can enjoy them for a longer time. We will also discuss and plan our next major project.

Look forward to seeing you at First Presbyterian Church for another great meal and fellowship. See you Tuesday evening — Mark

## Next Club Meeting

Tuesday  
Feb. 23

6:30 PM

First  
Presbyterian  
Church

313 North  
Patterson St.

Bring a covered  
dish and a  
FRIEND!

Congratulations to J. D. Thomerson (sorry I am tooting my own horn — but I typically don't win anything) for winning four awards at the Thomasville Camellia Show. He won best Very Large Protected Reticulata with "John Hunt" (see below); best Medium Outdoor Reticulata with "Mary Catherine Cape"; best Seedling with "2005-01" (see below); and best Large Outdoor Reticulata with "Adrienne Boueres" (see next page). I am including a photo of my "Delta Dawn" because although it only made it to the contention table it was the one I liked the best.



John Hunt



Seedling 2005-01



Delta Dawn

# Howard and Mary Rhodes – One Great Team

## “He Grows Them and She Shows Them”

By: J. D. Thomerson and Randolph Maphis

Do you know Howard and Mary Rhodes? They live in Tallahassee, FL and have placed in the top couple of positions in the camellia show exhibitor rankings for the Atlantic Coast Region each of the last five years. What's more, they also exhibit their blooms in the Gulf South Region and do equally well there. They have approximately 250 camellias in two large greenhouses and 450 or more planted under a beautiful tree canopy around their large wooded lot. And, to keep up with the “Big Dogs” as their friend Hulyn Smith often said they have hundreds of rootstocks for grafting and bunches of seedlings for evaluation planted around their property.

This past year they registered four new camellias: Adrienne Boueres (named for their daughter) which is a large dark pink rose form double seedling of Frank Houser, Rilyn Boueres (named for their granddaughter — see p. 4) which is a medium semidouble with a very unique lavender variegated color, Ruchi Rhodes (named for their daughter-in-law — see p. 4) which is a large vivid red variegated semidouble bloom, and Kay Berridge Red which is a beautiful dark red sport of Kay Berridge. There is no doubt that Howard and Mary Rhodes are two of the finest camellia growers in the world. But, I want to tell you much more about them.



**Howard and Mary in their greenhouse showing off an award winning bloom**



**This bloom of Adrienne Boueres won best Large Outdoor Reticulata at the 2016 Thomasville Camellia Show**

Howard was born in Lineville, AL about 40 miles from Gadsden. His father worked for the Social Security Administration and his mother was a math teacher. Howard earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Auburn University. He worked for the state of Florida for 34 years in various positions dealing with Environmental Policy for air, water, soil, ground water, waste, and pesticides. Yes, Howard Rhodes is one very smart fellow and further evidence of this is that he had the wisdom to meet and eventually marry a wonderful lady named Mary Upshaw. Mary received her Bachelor's degree from Stetson University in American Studies and her Masters in Library Science from Florida State University and worked in the field of education – like Howard, she is very intelligent. They have been married for 43 years and it is a joy to see a couple that love one another as much as Howard and Mary.

Howard said he first noticed camellias in 1993 when he saw a very large camellia plant growing at a veterinarian's office.





**Photo of camellia “Howard Rhodes”  
registered by Hulyn Smith**



**Photo of camellia “Mary Rhodes”  
registered by Hulyn Smith**

He didn’t even know what kind of flower it was but was astounded that it was blooming in the middle of winter. He asked about this plant and wanted to learn more and soon attended his first camellia show at the Tallahassee mall in 1994. Well, as many folks are once they see the hundreds of blooms at a camellia show he was overwhelmed. Mack Gilchrist (some camellia people might have heard of the Gilchrist strain of Ville de Nantes), a very successful school principal and camellia grower in the club, gave Howard a very nice Carter Sunburst camellia plant and Howard was quickly hooked. He and Mary joined the Tallahassee Camellia Society and began to make good friends with many other very knowledgeable camellia growers in the area. Howard air layered 100 – 150 camellias at the homes of Mrs. Mary McLeod and also Mrs. Evangel Cooksey of Lamont, FL who were also club members. Then, he learned how to graft from Lee Roy Smith (if you don’t know about Lee Roy Smith you need to ask Randolph Maphis to tell you about him as well as Mrs. McLeod, Mrs. Cooksey, and Mack and Quinnie Gilchrist.) Howard said that Mary went “crazy” one day when he cut off a perfectly good camellia plant to graft on.

Soon, a neighbor (I wonder who?) said that he and Mary needed a greenhouse – guess who lives within shouting distance from Howard and Mary? You guessed it – Randolph and Marilyn Maphis.

Soon after the first greenhouse was built and filled with camellias in 2003 it was time to build a second one. Randolph and Marilyn and Howard and Mary soon became great friends. Randolph, who had already acquired an impressive camellia collection, shared everything he had with Howard and Mary and they very quickly had an amazing camellia collection of their own.



**A glimpse into one of Howard and Mary’s  
two beautiful greenhouses**

When asked, Howard said his five favorite camellias are: Frank Houser Var., Ray Gentry, Halls Pride Var., Fircone, and Mellissa Anne. Both Howard and Mary are ACS Certified Judges and both are extremely active and have held many positions in the Tallahassee Camellia Society. Howard and Mary are perfect for teaching classes and recertification symposiums – they are both excellent teachers. They both love to travel all around the world looking and talking camellias. They have been to China a



couple of times and Spain too. They try to take at least one camellia trip a year. When they return home they share their pictures and experiences with other camellia societies and at camellia conventions.

At first, Howard seems quiet and shy at camellia meetings and shows preferring to sit and listen instead of leading the discussions. However, he draws folks to himself with his warmth and genuine nature. Randolph tells how Howard is always sought out by new members and novice judges for advice and help. Mary is also very easy to talk with and get to know and is a very caring and loving person. Mary is especially known for sharing blooms with people in the community. Churches, schools, doctor's offices, assisted living facilities, people giving parties and having luncheons all benefit from the blooms she shares. Some people call her "Camellia Mary."

It has been said that "Howard grows them and Mary shows them" and anyone that has seen the award winning blooms they bring to the shows or their camellia collection at their home can testify that they do an amazing job. Howard and Mary's camellia collection was on tour at the 2015 ACS National Convention and it was fabulous. Yes, Howard and Mary Rhodes are fine camellia growers but more importantly two of the most wonderful people you could ever meet.



**Mary Rhodes working at the Tallahassee Camellia Show**



**Howard and Mary Rhodes with Randolph Maphis and Mack and Quinnie Gilchrist sharing blooms at a nursing home**



**Ruchi Rhodes**



**Rilyn Boueres**

# GEORGIA CAMELLIA TRAIL

Exciting progress is being made with the proposed Georgia Camellia Trail. On Feb. 11, several members of the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club met with Bruce Green, Director of Tourism Product Development with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, along with other Georgia Tourism representatives, as well as Valdosta State University Grounds and Building Supervisors. We will discuss the results of this meeting at our February 23 club meeting.

PLEASE READ THE ARTICLE BELOW as it hopefully will be an integral part of the Georgia Camellia Trail.

## The Jewell Whitehead Camellia Trail

By: Hulyn Smith

(reprinted from the 1978 American Camellia Yearbook)

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Whitehead lived at 204 Georgia Avenue, Valdosta, Georgia. Their home was across the street from the northern most boundary of Valdosta State College. In December of 1944, Mrs. Whitehead gave Valdosta State approximately 150 camellia plants. This was the beginning of the Camellia Trail, located across the street from the Whitehead home. At the time of her death in 1972, the number of camellias had grown to 1100. During these years Mrs. Whitehead managed, cultivated and maintained the Camellia Trail.

When Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead died, their generosity to the College continued. From their bequest to Valdosta State, \$353,000 is designated for the Camellia Trail and campus beautification. The corpus of this gift is to remain intact, with the College only using the interest and dividends generated from these endowment funds.

In 1974, The Whitehead Beautification Committee was appointed and has been at work on the maintenance of the Camellia Trail and general campus beautification. One of the first projects was the purchase and planting of thirteen live oaks on the front ellipse of the campus during the bicentennial in 1976. This committee has drawn up the following priority list:

1. The establishment of a permanent marker commemorating the Jewel Whitehead Trail to the "Camellia Lady," at the south entrance of the Trail.
2. The drilling of a deep well and laying the necessary supply lines and sprinklers.
3. The construction of a new brick or concrete trail.
4. The reworking of the plants of the trail.
5. The construction of a greenhouse.
6. The hiring of a horticulturist and indexing the camellias on the trail.

The Whitehead Beautification Committee plans to appoint a group of American Camellia Society members to work with them on the development of this memorial to Mrs. Whitehead.

The time is finally fast approaching when the grounds of the Valdosta State Campus will be one of the real beauty spots in South Georgia, with the Camellia Trail the focal point of this beauty.

It is my personal dream that eventually camellia research will be done on the VSC campus in cooperation with the American Camellia Society.



# Join the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club Today

- ❖ Informative meetings – Camellias and much more!
- ❖ Share your gardening ideas and expertise with other members
- ❖ Group events

Meetings are typically held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from September through March  
at

**First Presbyterian Church  
313 North Patterson St.  
Valdosta, GA 31601**

**Call Mark Crawford at 229-460-5922 for more information.**

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Joint membership

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City, State Zip Code:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

**Gardening Interests:**

**Mail or give to:**

Sandra Seago  
Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club  
1802 N. Oak St.  
Valdosta, GA 31602

**We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!**

(Please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

**Typical Meeting Time: 6:30 PM**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from September through March**

**But please e-mail or phone Mark Crawford to make sure of meeting date/time/location as we occasionally meet on other dates and at different locations**

**E-mail: [craw142@bellsouth.net](mailto:craw142@bellsouth.net)**

**Phone him at 229-460-5922**

**JANUARY  
2016**

# VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

## A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

This has been a crazy winter so far with summer temperatures in late December causing many camellias to bloom nearly 2 months early. The warm weather has also caused premature bud drop and bull-nosing on several varieties. As I write this we are expecting night temperatures in the upper 20s. This might kill some open camellia flowers but if protected by trees and in town they might be fine. Now is the time to get your grafting wish list ready and consider grafting those plants that you would like to change into another variety. Grafting season is here in another week through the month of February. If your plants are overgrown and too large to enjoy the flowers, pruning should be done when your camellias finish blooming.

We have an excellent program this month on local native mushrooms to be presented by Emily Cantonwine. Please make every effort to attend to support our speaker.

Mark

## Next Club Meeting

**Tuesday  
Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 PM**

**First Presbyterian  
Church**

**313 North  
Patterson St.**

**In the  
Fellowship Hall**

## Upcoming Camellia Events/Activities

- Camellia Display at Lowes and other locations — Dates to be decided at our January Meeting
- Join the American Camellia Society (new members can join online for only \$10) The publications are excellent
- February is a great time to visit Masee Lane Gardens in Fort Valley, GA
- Quitman Camellia Show on February 6 & 7 at the Brooks County Extension Complex
- Late January and early February is "Grafting Season." "How-To" Lessons given upon request
- Late March/April is the time to Air Layer Camellias (Ask Mark, J. D. or others on how to perform this simple procedure)
- Thomasville Camellia Show on Feb 13 & 14 at Trinity Anglican Church, 325 West Jackson St.
- Work Days at the Sara Oliver Camellia Garden TBA
- Prune camellias (if needed) and fertilize after they finish blooming in March
- Now is a great time to plant new camellias



# Early Blooming Japonicas

## *“The Early Bird Catches the Worm”*

By J. D. Thomerson

**A**re you a morning person or a night person? My wife Kay is a morning person – I am just the opposite. I can stay up till 2 or 3 AM at night and be the most productive I am all day but when the alarm goes off in the morning I am grouchy and no good for anything. It takes me a couple of hours to get going in the morning and my mind does not really



kick into gear until around noon. But, at midnight, when nobody is around to witness it, I am sharp as a tack. I could stay up well past 3 AM if I did not force myself to go to sleep. Kay, on the other hand, starts to nod off about 9:30 PM and she is shot for the day. But, she wakes up early and is alert and ready to go. It is odd that we are completely different in our sleep routines. But, perhaps this is good in that we both get some private time so we don't drive each other crazy.

**“Early to Bed and Early to Rise  
makes a Man Healthy, Wealthy,  
and Wise”**

*Benjamin Franklin*

I really wish I was a morning person. My parents told me that nothing good happens after midnight – best to be safely tucked in the bed. Why do most teenagers not want to heed this advice? Luckily, my daughter Katie takes after her mom instead of me – hopefully, this will help keep her out of potential trouble down the road.

Did you know that camellias also fall into early bird and night owl categories? There are early bloomers, mid-season bloomers, and late bloomers. With camellias I definitely agree with Ben Franklin that EARLY is BETTER. Why you ask? Well, let me give some reasons.

### **Eight Reasons Why Early Blooming Japonicas are Great**

1. The first blooms of the season are enjoyed more than late blooms because growers have been waiting months to see a bloom of any kind and are so excited to see the first ones bloom.
2. Early blooms can be enjoyed while the weather is still really nice – instead of cold and wet weather later in the winter.
3. The majority of camellias bloom mid-season to mid-late season. Early bloomers lengthen the bloom season by a couple of months.
4. Early bloomers avoid freezes that turn their blooms brown.
5. Petal blight does not get bad until mid-season – typically in January. Early blooms avoid this damage.
6. Late bloomers typically never bloom well for me in Valdosta. The weather warms up in March and they just wither without opening up well. Some of my late bloomers set many buds but unless I treat them with gibberellic acid they just never open.
7. By mid to late camellia season my focus turns to grafting new varieties, pruning bushes, fertilizing, and getting ready for spring. I also dislike having to pick up all the fallen blooms so by late season I am a bit “burned out.”
8. Reticulata camellias as a group are mid- to late-season bloomers. Since most are spectacular blooms and most have not bloomed before January they pretty much get all my attention late in the camellia season – and the poor late season Japonica varieties get somewhat overlooked.



# Early Blooming Japonicas

Well, what are some good early blooming camellias? Sasanquas of course are great for early blooms but I want to focus on early blooming japonicas. The photos below show some really good ones that are known to bloom early in the camellia season for folks in the southeast. Of course, there are many more. Look and ask for Early Blooming varieties when shopping for new camellias.



DEBUTANTE



ALBA PLENA



DORIS ELLIS



DESTINY



EDNA BASS



STEVE BLOUNT



KIKU-TOJI



ANNETTE GEHRY



EARLY AUTUMN





BROOKE



HIGH HAT



LADY CLAIRE



JERRY WILSON



MARY AGNES PATIN



QBALL



SAN DIMAS



MARIE BRACEY



EMMETT BARNES



AREJISHI



LAURA'S BEAUTY



M.L. SPENCER





JESSIE BURGESS



CHARLIE BETTES



MRS. GOODWIN KNIGHT



DAIKAGURA



HENRY HUNTINGTON



OCTOBER AFFAIR



LOUISE FITZGERALD



DRAGON FIREBALL



FRAN MATHIS VAR



LAUREN TUDOR PINK VAR



JEFFREY HOOD



JOSHUA YOUTZ



## CAMELLIA WORD SEARCH

**Helpful Hint:** All words will be found vertically or horizontally including backwards — there are no diagonal words

SCION	JAPONICA	ROOTSTOCK	CAMBIUM	RETICULATA
SASANQUA	HYBRIDIZE	SPORT	VARIEGATION	NOMENCLATURE
GIBBERELIC	GRAFT	DIEBACK	SCALE	PETALOID

J A K I V F P R C K Z H M C F J Q Q U C  
 I F Z O Y T I B V O G G L L W W M X X I  
 Y R E T I C U L A T A M G X T Z R R E D  
 B B B E L U O O B C J O T F A R G P A F  
 H Y H L Q M U K T W W J D L X E A U I N  
 F B Q V M I L G J A B F C G I S U C I O  
 E R H M T W J A P O N I C A S P O R T I  
 D T K L V O G N K F R Q C A M B I U M T  
 W P C S W K L O D E G O Q Z A X N Z W A  
 G F O A T U S R A W A I A X D L P I F G  
 H I T S N Z Z Y J K C A B E I D P F R E  
 P Y S A Y U B I H Z C H T A K D B F Q I  
 E S T N N K V Z W S Z B Q A Y Q C F O R  
 T C O Q G I S N O D R A F U O R F K M A  
 A I O U S C A L E I E Z I D I R B Y H V  
 L O R A F N C I L L E R E B B I G R B Q  
 O N V V V M N H L X K X R H H E R H Z I  
 I R Y Y M W B P C G W C E U A T F R F E  
 D N O M E N C L A T U R E G Z S O L X L  
 Q S H J F D L Y Z P Z X E D D E S H R G



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Gardening Interests:

**Mail or give to:**

Sandra Seago  
Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club  
1802 N. Oak St.  
Valdosta, GA 31602

**We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!**

(Please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

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But please e-mail or phone Mark Crawford to make sure of meeting date/time/location as we  
occasionally meet on other dates and at different locations

E-mail: [craw142@bellsouth.net](mailto:craw142@bellsouth.net)

Phone him at 229-460-5922

**NOVEMBER  
2015**

# VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

## A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

Sasanquas are blooming all over town now and if you used the gibb distributed at the September meeting you should have very nice flowers on your camellias since the weather has been good. Apply gibb now for nice flowers during the Christmas season if we don't get a severe freeze. As most of you know we are not having a show this year due to poor public attendance at the downtown location. Finally got a reply from the mall and the cost to anything there is outrageous so it looks like we will do a display at Lowes in January or February.

We had a successful work day at the church getting the bridge built over the section of the path being washed out whenever it rains. The church is going to purchase some river rock to direct the water under the bridge. The hydrangeas have been planted along with a few more camellias. Next planting will be native azaleas in the area where the runoff water runs through the garden. That should complete most of our club restoration activity in the garden.

Our November meeting and covered dish meal will actually be Dec. 1st. Bring flowers to show off to the other members and we will have a program.

Mark

## Next Club Meeting

**Tuesday  
Dec. 1**

**6:30 PM**

**NEW LOCATION**

**First Presbyterian  
Church**

**313 North  
Patterson St.**

**In the  
Fellowship Hall**

## Upcoming Camellia Events/Activities

- Tallahassee Camellia Show on Jan. 9 & 10 at Doyle Conner Admin. Building
- Camellia Display at Lowes and other locations — Dates TBA
- Now is a great time to plant new camellias
- Join American Camellia Society (the publications are excellent)
- Quitman Camellia Show on February 6 & 7 at the Brooks County Extension Complex
- Late January and early February is "Grafting Season"
- Prune camellias if needed after they finish blooming in March
- February is a great time to visit Masee Lane Gardens in Fort Valley, GA
- Thomasville Camellia Show on Feb 13 at Thomasville Garden Center
- Work Days at the Sara Oliver Camellia Garden TBA
- Continue to Gibb Camellia blooms for earlier and larger blooms
- Late March/April is time to Air Layer Camellias



# THE 10 BEST WAYS TO KILL A CAMELLIA

By J. D. Thomerson

**M**any years ago Kay and I watched a movie called “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days.” In this movie, Matthew McConaughey plays an advertising executive competing with two female co-workers for a major account with a rich diamond merchant. He makes a deal with his female co-workers that the account is his if he can make a woman of their choice fall in love with him in 10 days. The woman his co-workers pick is Kate Hudson, who plays a lady journalist who works for a “fluffy” magazine publisher. She is writing a story on how to lose a guy in 10 days as a bet with her boss — if she can run-off any guy he chooses in 10 days she wins the bet and will be allowed to write more substantial stories.



I can't remember all of the details but the movie was funny. Kate Hudson did all kinds of things that would normally run a guy off but Matthew McConaughey was enduring all of it in hopes that he would win his bet that he could get any girl to fall in love with him in 10 days. Well, you guessed it – by the end of the movie the two were in love. My memory is so bad I can't remember all the ways that Kate Hudson tried to lose Matthew McConaughey in 10 days but below are a dozen good ways to scare off most any guy.

## A Dozen Ways to Lose a Guy

1. Call/text him non-stop
2. Invite him to visit your parents
3. Ask him too many questions like “what did you do today,” “where did you go,” “who did you see”
4. Saying “I Love You” too soon
5. Talk about past boyfriends all the time
6. Ask him to go look at rings – start talking marriage

7. Showing up at places you know he will be – stalking him
8. Snooping and taking peaks at his text and emails
9. Pushing your friends on him. For example, saying “Oh, you have to meet my friends Abbie and Laura.”
10. Sharing dating info about him on Facebook or other social media
11. Constantly fishing for compliments. For example, asking “How do you like my dress, my hair, my makeup” or saying “I really like you” then waiting 5 minutes and asking “well, do you like me too?”
12. And, perhaps the worst – “disturbing him while he is watching sports.”

Ok ladies, I know there are countless ways that us guys strike out with the females. But, we will never learn so it would make no point to list them all for us. Well, all of this reminiscing about this movie “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” got me thinking about camellias. How is that you ask? Well, I starting thinking about the main ways that people typically kill a camellia – and, I have made a list of the top 10 best ways.

## The Top 10 Ways to Kill a Camellia

**Please Understand:** These 10 items are things that you **DO NOT** want to do to your camellia plant

1. Plant it too deep or allow the plant to sink in its hole over time
2. Don't water it regularly after planting and until it gets established (which might be a couple of years)
3. Use too much fertilizer
4. Plant it in locations that receive full sun all day long (see note #1 below) or in dense shade

**Note #1:** Sasanquas and some other camellia species can handle full sun and Reticulatas can handle more sun than typical Japonicas.

5. Plant it in a soggy wet area
6. Injure the trunk of the camellia with a “weed wacker” or in some other way
7. Plant it in soil that has a high alkaline PH or is too acid (see note #2)

**Note #2:** In our area we do not typically have natural alkaline soil but this can occur around concrete driveways, sidewalks, and block/mortar walls that over time leech out alkaline properties. Camellias like slightly acid soil – but, in the deep-south our natural soil can actually get too acid and occasionally might need some lime to adjust the PH slightly. A soil PH analysis is worth the time and money.

8. Let mites or scale totally take over the plant (see note #3)

**Note #3:** Periodic sprays of Ultra-Fine (sometimes called Summer Oil) on the lower and upper leaf surfaces is a great preventative or cure for scale and mites.

9. Plant in hard clay or pure sand
10. Spray the wrong type of weed killer or pre-emergent too close to the camellia or let the spray drift by wind onto the foliage (see note #4)

**Note #4:** Round-up (glyphosate) is perfectly safe to spray around camellias as long as you do not directly spray the trunk or let the spray drift onto the leaves.

The Camellia grower has control over the above 10 items – but, unfortunately, there are a few ways camellias are killed that are a bit out of our control. Two such ways are:

- ◆ Freak accidents such as accidentally running it over with the lawn mower or a tree falling on the camellia (yes, I have had both of these happen in my yard.)



- ◆ Moles, Voles, Armadillos or other such varmints eating, digging up, and destroying the roots of the plant or deer chomping off all the leaves or trampling over the plant. Also, area dogs using the base of your camellia as the perfect bathroom. (see note #5)

**Note #5:** Cats can really help get rid of moles and voles and perhaps a shotgun would help with the armadillos and deer.



I will be honest, a few camellias just don't want to be happy and get sick and die – certain varieties are known to be hard to grow. Luckily, this is not the majority. Attend your local camellia club and folks will tell you which varieties are easy to grow and which ones you might want to avoid.

Don't feel bad if you kill a camellia plant – all camellia growers have done so at one time or another and if they say they have not it either means they are lying or they don't grow many camellias. Hulyn Smith once told me “some camellias just die – get over it and plant another one.” For some odd reason it makes me feel better when I hear that great camellia growers like Hulyn Smith, Randolph Maphis, Jerry and Carol Selph, and Mark Crawford have killed their share of camellias too.

The lists of how to lose a girl or guy is practically endless – luckily this is not the case with camellias. Avoid the 10 best ways to kill a camellia outlined above and you will be on your way to growing healthy camellias. But, when something does go wrong and one dies, be like Randolph, Jerry & Carol, Mark and Hulyn (see photo below) and just plant another one.



Photo of Hulyn Smith Planting a Camellia



# JAPONICAS AND NON-RETIC HYBRIDS ORIGINATED BY HULYN SMITH

Hulyn Smith is known for loving great big reticulata varieties — the bigger the better and the more variegation the better as well. However, Hulyn also registered some mighty fine Japonicas and Non-Retic Hybrids that are much easier for the average camellian to grow and also do not need to be grown in a greenhouse. The photo gallery that follows contains all of the named Japonica and Non-Retic Hybrids that Hulyn Smith originated. When registering his new introductions Hulyn would often name them for family members and friends.

Lauren Tudor was named for one of Hulyn's three daughters and Tudor Baby was named for Lauren's daughter (Hulyn's granddaughter.) Kathryn Land and Camille are also named for two of Hulyn's granddaughters. Chief Arnold was named for a former Valdosta Police Chief (Loyce Arnold) who was a long-time member of the Valdosta Camellia Society. Henry Parrish was a dear friend and fellow member of Hulyn's church. Hulyn named two non-retic hybrid seedlings (they were actually pod mates) for two camellia ladies that lived in the North Florida area. They were Delores Edwards (wife of Marion Edwards) and Cile Mitchell (wife of Ivan Mitchell.) Dr. Frank Wilson was a friend and frequent visitor to Hulyn's yard and greenhouses that is a camellia enthusiast living in Leslie, GA. Ben George was a friend of Hulyn's that lives and grows camellias in the Orlando, FL area.

## Tudor Baby Var



Georgia Fire



Lauren Tudor Pink





Chief Arnold



Trudy George



Dr. Frank Wilson



Wendzalea





Delores Edwards



Camille



Tudor Baby



Cile Mitchell





Ben George



Kathryn Land



Lauren Tudor



Carter Sunburst Blush





# Henry Parrish



# Georgia National Fair Blush





# Join the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club Today

- ❖ Informative meetings – Camellias and much more!
- ❖ Share your gardening ideas and expertise with other members
- ❖ Group events

Meetings are typically held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from September through March  
at

First Presbyterian Church  
313 North Patterson St.  
Valdosta, GA 31601

Call Mark Crawford at 229-460-5922 for more information.

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Joint membership

Name:

Address:

City, State Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Gardening Interests:

**Mail or give to:**

Sandra Seago  
Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club  
1802 N. Oak St.  
Valdosta, GA 31602

**We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!**

(Please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

**Typical Meeting Time: 6:30 PM**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from September through March**

But please e-mail or phone Mark Crawford to make sure of meeting date/time/location as we  
occasionally meet on other dates and at different locations

E-mail: [craw142@bellsouth.net](mailto:craw142@bellsouth.net)

Phone him at 229-460-5922



**October  
2015**

# VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

## A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

Our kickoff meeting at Ocean Pond went very well with an excellent program by Linda VanBeck from Tallahassee on daffodils. Daffodils make excellent companion plants with camellias on the edges of your garden where they get more sun. Linda had good advice on varieties suited to our area as so many sold in big box stores do much better further north where they receive more cold. Please welcome two new members who joined the club Jeff and Susan Mohnen from Madison.

The sasanquas are beginning to bloom all over town now that the cool weather has arrived. The japonicas will follow with the variety 'Early Autumn' already blooming.

J. D. will be giving the program for our October meeting and you don't want to miss it. He gave a talk to the Gainesville, Florida club 2 weeks ago and I heard rave reviews. Don't forget that we have a new meeting place at the First Presbyterian Church downtown on the corner of Patterson and Magnolia streets. You can park along Magnolia street or in the church parking lot on the corner of Ashley and Magnolia directly across the street from the justice center. Use the entrance off this parking area to the fellowship hall. We will have our usual covered dish meal that precedes the program.

We will have another work day very soon to plant hydrangeas and a few more camellias at the church garden. If you have some flowers bring them to the meeting and show them off.

See you Tuesday evening — Mark

## Next Club Meeting

**Tuesday  
Oct. 27**

**6:30 PM**

## NEW LOCATION

**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**313 North  
Patterson St.**

**In the  
Fellowship Hall**

## IT'S CAMELLIA SASANQUA SEASON



**Leslie Ann**



**Star Above Star**



**Navajo**

# CAMELLIA FAMILY TREES

## “The Nuts, Sports, Odd Balls, and Beauties”

By J. D. Thomerson

Do you come from a crazy family? I know I do – and I know my wife does too. I will get in trouble for this but there are several family members on my wife’s side that are “just not quite right.” You know, “their elevator does not go all the way to the top floor” and/or “both of their oars are not in the water.” I would love to share examples but I would pay dearly if I did. Of course, my family has its share of strange characters as well. And, when I share with others about the “fruit cakes” in Kay’s and my families I typically hear them talk about their crazy “Uncle Joe” or weird “Aunt Betty.” For some strange reason it makes me feel better knowing that other families are just as “messed up” as ours. But, to be fair, both our families have some very successful and smart folks amongst the “nuts.”



**Kay and Katie acting Crazy**



My daughter, Katie, likes to look at our old photo albums and she just laughs and laughs at old photos of Kay and myself. She thinks we look like the biggest “Nerds” of all time. Then we show her some other family members and she thinks some are really pretty or handsome, others scary looking, and others just funny looking. Instead of being embarrassed or overly proud and boastful of our families, Kay and I have just learned to love them “as they are.”

**FAMILIES**  
ARE LIKE FUDGE...  
*mostly sweet,*  
WITH LOTS OF  
**NUTS!**

I have some friends that are convinced that there are a handful of families (maybe 20 or 30) that have and are currently controlling the whole United States and possibly the entire world. They name some very wealthy and powerful families from the past like the Vanderbilt’s, Rockefeller’s, Carnegie’s, Du Pont’s, and Hearst’s as well as modern folks like Warren Buffet and Bill Gates. Of course, powerful political families like the Kennedy’s, Bush’s, and

Clinton’s are mentioned and other folks that I either don’t know or can’t remember. They have not convinced me of all of this but I do know that there are and have been some very powerful and influential families in our society.

**What does all of this have to do with camellias?  
I am glad you asked.**

Well, just like there are some elite human families in our society there are also some very elite camellia families in the plant world. What, camellias have families? Yes, they do and many camellia families can be traced back for over a hundred years. Camellias produce children by setting seed and



**Gather and plant camellia seed. It's easy and fun!**

sometimes they mate with beautiful spouses and sometimes odd ball varieties. Therefore, just like real human families the children (seedlings) can be similar or very different from their parents. Some are weird looking, some beautiful, some grow tall, others wide, and some always seem to look sickly (sounds “kinda” like Kay’s relatives.)

However, camellias can produce new family members in a way I can’t really compare to humans – they can produce “sports.” I do recall my mother telling people that when I was much younger I was a “real sport” but I don’t think she was meaning the same thing as a camellia sport. A camellia “sport” is when a camellia variety all of a sudden begins to produce blooms (often on one branch only) that are different looking from all the others. They do this not by reproducing from seed by way of pollen but just by “morphing” (how about that for a scientific explanation) into a new looking bloom. The sports that look nice are collected and propagated by rooting or grafting to make new varieties. Probably the best examples of varieties that are

**Morph:**  
to undergo transformation from an image of one object into that of another

*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

Probably the best examples of varieties that are



known for producing many sports are the Betty Sheffield and the Tomorrow families.

Just like the “Who’s Who” of the human family world like the Vanderbilt’s, Rockefeller’s, Kennedy’s, and Bush’s there are also the “Who’s Who” of the camellia family world. I want to share a few of them with you in the remainder of this article.

**Note:** I am only going to discuss Japonica family trees in this article. The Reticulata’s all come from a much smaller gene pool. Most retic hybrids have either Crimson Robe or Cornelian as parents as these two original reticulata varieties set seeds well. The Reticulata hybrids will require their own special family tree discussion that I will write for a future article.

## Ok, Here are My Top 10 Camellia Families:

**Tomorrow:** The Tomorrow family, similar to Betty Sheffield, is a sporting group. The sports include: **Tomorrow Crown Jewel, Tomorrow Leanne’s, Tomorrow Marbury’s Light Pink, Tomorrow Park Hill, Tomorrow’s Supreme, Tomorrow White, Tomorrow’s Dawn, Tomorrow’s Dawn Bessie, Tomorrow’s Delight, Tomorrow’s Sweet Image, Tomorrow’s Lisa, Tomorrow’s Tropic Dawn**, that is a lot of Tomorrow’s and I am not even including all of them. Because all these Tomorrow varieties were so widely popular (they are all really beautiful) hybridizers used Tomorrow in their breeding programs. Popular seedlings of Tomorrow varieties include: **Charlotte Blount, Cleve James, Mike Witman, Ruffian, Terry Gilley**, and **Strawberry Swirl**. Your homework (remember I am a teacher) is to do a Google search for several of these Tomorrow sports or seedlings. The list is so long I just can’t begin to describe them all.



Betty Sheffield Supreme

**Betty Sheffield:** How can I possibly list all the sports and seedlings of Betty Sheffield. Many articles have been written about Betty Sheffield and the twenty plus sports that the camellia has produced. Betty Sheffield lived in Quitman, GA and there is a very nice camellia garden next to the Historical

Society building in downtown Quitman that has a life sized bronze statue of Betty. There is a very good article in the Feb. 2015 American Camellia Society Journal about Betty Sheffield, her story, and all the amazing Sports and Seedlings



Elaine’s Betty Var.

that this camellia produced. Look in the Camellia Nomenclature book or do a Google search for Betty Sheffield and you can read about the many sports of Betty Sheffield. **Betty Sheffield Supreme** is probably the most popular or grown sport but many others are also common. Some of the named sports do not begin with Betty as the first name such as **Elaine’s Betty, Funny Face Betty**, and **Blonde Betty**. Betty Sheffield produces many seeds and in addition to the many sports of Betty Sheffield there are seedlings also.

**Elegans:** Let’s begin with the Sports in this family: **Elegans Supreme, Elegans Champagne, Elegans Splendor, Barbara Woodroff, C. M. Wilson, etc.** Then, you have the sports of the Sports (grandchildren Sports I guess we could call this) – **Shiro Chan** and **Hawaii** are sports of C. M. Wilson and to go even further



Elegans Splendor

along the family ladder we have **Snow Chan** as a sport of Shiro Chan and **Kona** is a sport of Hawaii. I have probably left out some of the “sports” in this family but in addition to the sports there are also seedling family members. Do you think that the seedling family members think they are better than the sporting family members? Seedling family members include **Elegant Beauty, Pink Explorer**, and **Sunset Glory** and of course there are grandchildren of these as well such as **Owen Henry** that is a sport of Sunset Glory. My goodness, if the Elegans family held a family reunion there would be all kinds of questions about who is a child or sport of whom, who are the aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, etc.



Ville de Nantes

**Donkellari:** Donkellari is a medium to large, semi-double, with red marbled white coloring. It is very old having originated in China in 1834. It sets many seeds so undoubtedly many chance seedlings have donkellari genes whether the grower knew it or not. Donkellari’s inclusion in the Who’s Who of camellia families would be justified with just one sport named **Ville de Nantes**. Ville de Nantes is perhaps the most popular camellia of all time. My dear friend Hulyn Smith who grew hundreds of great varieties had me help him make a photo of Ville de Nantes the opening screen background for his cell phone. Many camellia shows have a special category for the best Ville de Nantes. Ville de Nantes has a sport named **Lady**

**Kay** which is a loose to full peony form of Ville. Since my wife's name is Kay I have three plants of Lady Kay. Marvin Jernigan crossed Ville de Nantes with Granada and came up with three fine varieties: **Henry Lundsford**, **Marvin Jernigan**, and **Cecil Beard Var.** Walter Homeyer crossed the reticulara Crimson Robe with Ville de Nantes and developed the outstanding retic hybrid **Terrell Weaver**. The Donkellari bloodlines go much further than what I have room to discuss.



**Terrell Weaver**

**Julia Drayton/Mathotiana:** OK, this family has its share of drama and controversies like many human families. Who is actually the original family member Julia Drayton or Mathotiana? Are these two different camellias or actually the same one? It depends upon who you ask. The Southern California Camellia Society official nomenclature book seems to indicate that they are the same – but, visit the International Camellia Society Register on the Web and it is obvious that they think otherwise. I don't claim to know the answers but I think it is interesting that camellia families have controversies just like human ones. To make this issue



**Mathotiana Sup. Var. aka: Avery Island**

more confusing there are dozens of nick-names (not official names but what folks in different parts of the country call Julia Drayton and/or Mathotiana) such as Purple Dawn, Rubra, Purple Prince, Purple Emperor, and William S. Hastie to name just a few. Well, is all of the above as clear as mud? So, let's move on to the sports of Julia Drayton or whatever you choose to call the Grand Poo Pa of this camellia family. Sports include: **Flowerwood**, **Sultana**, **Dautel's Supreme**, and **Rosea Superba**. This controversial family even has a very unique family member that is not a seedling or a normal sport – the very popular **Helen Bower** is what is called a "Chimera" of Dr. Knapp grafted onto a Mathotiana Variegated. A chimera forms when the two varieties actually combine together at the graft union and actually form a totally new variety that is not exactly either one of the parents – you might think of this as a "metamorphosis" into something new." There are few examples of known chimeras in the camellia world and Helen Bower is probably the best known example. Mathotiana probably does not have as many chance seedling children



**Helen Bower**

because it is a rose form double to formal double and the bees can't get to the stamens that contain the pollen very easily.

**Daikagura:** Daikagura is a bright rose pink splotched white, medium to large, peony form bloom. It is very old having been originated in China back in 1891. What is special about Daikagura is that it blooms EARLY – not E-M, but just "E" for Early. **High Hat** is a pale pink sport of Daikagura and **Conrad Hilton** is a white



**Daikagura**

sport of High Hat. The award winning non-retic hybrid **Mona Jury** contains 1/3 Daikagura genes as does the large fine white variety named **Joshua E. Youtz**. Joshua E. Youtz produced a seedling named **Ecclefield** which is a large white anemone flower that was very popular in the 1960's and 70's. **Indian Summer** is a seedling of Daikagura and with the popularity of Daikagura and it being so old I am sure many chance seedlings contain Daikagura genes.

**Herme:** Actually, the rightful name is Hikaru-Genji which was how it was originally registered in Japan back in 1879. Folks in the U.S. know it as Herme although many call it by the synonym **Jordan's Pride**. Several sports of Herme include **Colonial Lady**, **Look Away**, and **The Mikado**. Of course, you also have the sports of sports such as the very pretty **Spring Sonnet**. Herme is such a popular and known variety that hundreds of other camellia varieties would reference Herme when giving descriptions



**Herme**

of its own characteristics. Often in the camellia nomenclature book you read "the semi-double flower, similar to Herme" or "the Herme type bloom." Due to the cold-hardiness characteristics of Herme, Dr. Clifford Parks used it as the pollen parent when originating the very cold hardy variety named **April Dawn**. Since Herme is such an old variety, very popular, and does produce seeds it is very probable that many chance seedling registrations probably have Herme as either a seed or pollen parent. I have an old (well, 1950) variety named **Simeon** that is a Rev. John Bennet by Herme cross and the great hybridizer Walter Homeyer crossed Simeon with Tomorrow to produce **Cleve James**. The old Herme genes are surely very widespread.

**Aspasia McArthur:** I really like this family of blooms. **Aspasia McArthur** is white to cream white medium full peony bloom with a few rose red lines and dashes that blooms E-M. It is an active sport and has produced the award winning



**Margaret Davis** (see photo) which would have to be in my top 10 favorites list. **Jean Clere** is the exact opposite colors than Margaret Davis. Everywhere Margaret Davis is white Jean Clere is red and where Margaret Davis is red Jean Clere is white.

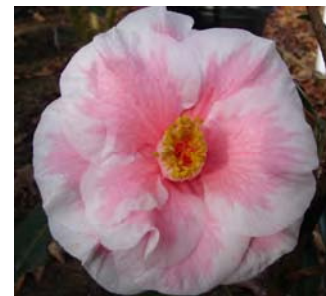
**Lady Loch** is another sport of

Aspasia McArthur and Mark Crawford made sure he got this one since his nursery is named "Loch Laurel Nursery." Then you have sports of the sports such as the popular **Can Can** variety that is a sport of Lady Loch. There are many other sports of Aspasia McArthur and sports of sports but I cannot include them all. Aspasia McArthur seeds were used to originate **Ave Maria** which is a very early blooming variety that is a nice pink formal double to peony bloom. Nuccio's Nursery even crossed Aspasia McArthur with the reticulata Nuccio's Ruby to originate the retic hybrid named **Trophy**.



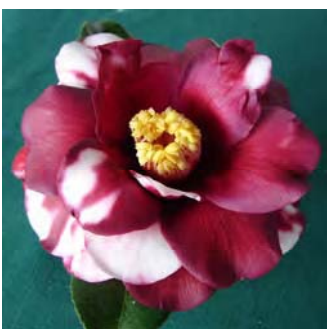
Margaret Davis

large, rose pink, peony bloom that blooms E-M and is a new popular variety. But, what has everyone really excited is that Sweetie Pie has developed a sport that is really spectacular – Jerry Conrad chose **Louise Fitzgerald** for the name of this very nice sport of Sweetie Pie. Unfortunately, Jerry passed away before many of his Moonlight Bay seedlings could be evaluated and registered but I remember him telling me to plant every Moonlight Bay seed you can get your hands-on. I took his advice and have several seedlings I am anxiously waiting to bloom.



Louise Fitzgerald

Well, family trees are interesting to study – whether they be human or "camellian." And, the more I think about it perhaps human families do have sports. I know one morning I woke up and looked in the mirror and my full nice head of hair had "morphed" into a shiny bald head – unfortunately, I don't think anybody would want to try and reproduce my "sport" of a head. But, perhaps I can "graft" some scions (or hair plugs in this case) into my old bald head. Just like people trace back their ancestry it is fun to know the "roots" and genealogy of our beloved camellias.



Edna Campbell Var

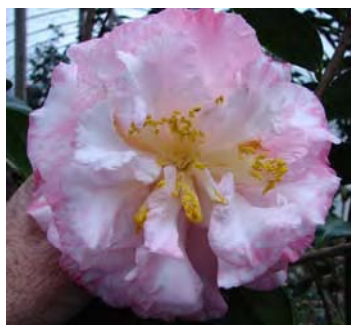
**Edna Campbell:** Hulyn Smith really liked dark red camellia blooms and he used the seeds of Edna Campbell, a very dark red bloom that sets many seeds, to try and get some great new dark varieties. He was successful in a big way with **Chief Arnold, Georgia Fire, Henry Parrish, and Dr. Frank Wilson.** John Spencer from

Lakeland, FL also planted Edna Campbell seeds and came up with **Deep Purple Dream** that is a new popular variety as well as **Kute Kate** that I really want because my daughter is named Katie and I think she is very cute. Miss Lillian Gordy planted an Edna Campbell seed and came up with a variety she named **Emberglow**. Emberglow is bluish rose fading to magenta (basically a purple color.) All of these Edna Campbell seedlings are very dark red/purple and are new varieties that are very popular.

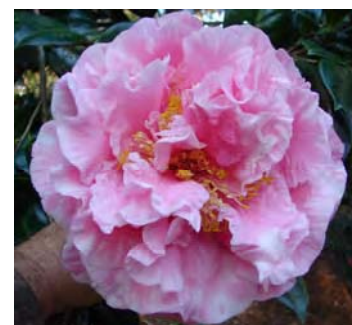


Chief Arnold

**If forced to pick a favorite camellia family I would have to pick the Tomorrow family. Look at the four beauties below photographed by Randolph Maphis.**



Tomorrow's Sweet Image



Leanne's Tomorrow



Sweetie Pie

**Moonlight Bay:** The popular camellia variety named **Sweetie Pie** is a Moonlight Bay Seedling. The late Jerry Conrad that was the owner of Erinon Nursery located in Plymouth, FL just outside of Orlando really liked to plant Moonlight Bay seeds. He was successful with the introduction of **Dale Fitzgerald**, a



Tomorrow Var.



Tomorrow Park Hill Pink Var

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Sandra Seago  
Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club  
1802 N. Oak St.  
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(Please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

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**E-mail: [craw142@bellsouth.net](mailto:craw142@bellsouth.net)**

**Phone him at 229-460-5922**



September  
2015

# VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

## A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

Another very hot summer is behind us with a hint of fall upon us. The rather wet summer was great for our camellias and should be the prerequisite for a great blooming season. Everyone I have talked with had incredible growth on their camellias and for me, my garden has become a jungle. I have been growing camellias for 15 years and now my oldest plants have become so big they need to be severely trimmed. Just another job to add to the endless list of things to do around the garden.

We will start off our club season meeting at Ocean Pond on September 22 at 6:00 for a social hour and dinner at 7:00. Please make your reservation by Friday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> for dinner that is \$14.00. We will have a guest speaker to talk about a companion plant for camellias that I am sure you will enjoy.

For our regular meetings, we will no longer be meeting at the Crescent. The garden clubs have raised the fee to \$135.00 per meeting that is completely unacceptable. Starting in October we will meet downtown at First Presbyterian Church in the fellowship hall. There is plenty of off-street parking and this location will fit our needs very well and it will not drain our bank account. Another change is that we will not be having a show this year. The Methodist church has been a great place to have a show but ever since there are no vendors associated with the Christmas festival preceding the parade we have had terrible attendance by the public. It is too much work for the public not to be involved and we have not attracted a new member through the show in 3 years. We can use our time off to reevaluate our show date and location and come up with a new plan. I would like to host a camellia flower display in February somewhere we can get a lot of public exposure. Your ideas are welcome.

This year I would like to start a new feature for our newsletter with a Question Box. If you have a question about camellias or other garden plants, please email me or J. D. and it will be answered in the next newsletter. Urgent questions will be answered promptly and be included in the newsletter. I also want to bring to your attention that all the articles from the Northern California Camellia Bulletin are now available full text on the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society website.

<http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/NCCS%20Journals/NCCS%20Camellia%20Bulletins%201947-1965.html>

These bulletins are filled with great articles from the peak of camellia growing from 1947 to 1965 with articles written by some of the most famous growers of the time.

This month is time to disbud your camellias to 1 bud per terminal branch that will improve the size and shape of the flowers. It is also time to gib so that you can enjoy flowers over a longer period of time especially if you like to cut them to enjoy indoors. Watch your plants for mites and scale as they can become a problem as the weather cools.

Look forward to seeing you at Ocean Pond.

## Next Club Meeting

Tuesday  
Sept. 22

6:00 PM

Lake Park, GA  
Ocean Pond  
Clubhouse

Please RSVP

Emily Newbern  
at 229-245-8086  
or  
enewbern@vol.com

## Next Camellia Show

Georgia National Fair  
Miller-Murphy-Howard  
Building

Perry, GA

Sat. & Sun.  
October 17 & 18

Bloom Entry  
7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Sat.

Open to Public  
Beginning Sat.  
at 1:00 p.m.

# I AM HONORED TO CALL HIM MY FRIEND

## SPOTLIGHT ON RANDOLPH MAPHIS

By J. D. Thomerson

What a pleasure it is to write an article about my good friend Randolph Maphis. Yes, a pleasure but also a big task because Randolph Maphis is not just your average guy – he is accomplished in so many areas and does so many things well that I hardly know where to begin. I will attempt to give you his story but before I begin I want to first say that Randolph is just an overall great guy -- a great friend, a great family man, a great camellia grower, a great camellia club president, a great business manager, a great cook, and so much more. That is a lot of “greats” but if you know Randolph Maphis then you know that it is all true.



One of Two Large Greenhouses at the Maphis Home

Randolph Maphis grew up in the big city of Grand Ridge, FL (that is a joke – the last census was a population of 790 people) about 56 miles from Tallahassee, FL. Many camellia growers will recognize the city of Grand Ridge, FL as the home of Mr. Paul Gilley who grew thousands of camellia seedlings and registered 50 plus varieties naming them for members of his family and even one for his dog. Randolph’s parents knew Paul Gilley and they visited the Gilley’s camellia farm many times. Randolph’s father enjoyed growing many kinds of plants and grew several camellias from cuttings acquired from the Gilley’s. I am sure this lit a spark for plants and camellias in particular with Randolph but early on school, career, and family came first.



Photo of Camellia Grower Mr. Paul Gilley

During his high school days he met a special lady named Marilyn Edenfield who after several years of dating agreed to be his wife on May 4, 1968. They celebrated their 46th anniversary this year. Marilyn and Randolph are parents of three children. Scott is following in his dad’s footsteps working as Grocery Manager at a Publix store located in Tallahassee, FL. Sam, one of his two daughters, is a lawyer currently living in McLean, VA, just outside Washington, D.C., and Charlene is working as a nurse in Tallahassee. Randolph and Marilyn are very proud grandparents of 8 grandchildren.



Randolph and Marilyn Maphis



Randolph Maphis and Mrs. Roberta Hardison at a Publix Camellia Display

Randolph coached both girls softball and boys baseball in the Tallahassee City League for over 15 years. All three of his children played ball and their Dad was most often their coach or assistant. Randolph was also very active in the Boy Scout program. Scott joined the scouting program in first grade and continued with the program long after earning his Eagle Scout. For 11 years, Randolph served either as an Assistant Scout Master or Merit Badge Counselor and also sat on the Eagle Board. Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Rifle Shoot, and Family Life are just a few of the topics he taught in the Boy Scout program.



After attending college Randolph soon began a long and very successful 38 year career with the fast growing Publix Supermarket Corporation. After just three short years he was promoted to Management where he worked the next 35 years including 20 years as overall Store Manager. Bill Curry, Vice President of Publix, said the following about Randolph: “There is nothing average about Randolph Maphis as he has always been at the top of the scale in thoughts about life and work. He is energetic and filled with drive; he exemplifies the story about giving work to the man who is the hardest worker for he will get the job done. He is honest and outspoken, never have I worked with anyone with any more personal integrity than Randolph Maphis. He is a man of his word, he admits his mistakes and he will not lie. Randolph is my friend for life.”



Likewise, Marilyn is a very gifted lady and has also had a very successful business career. She worked with the state of Florida and also was the Owner of two Hallmark stores for many years. Marilyn is a very detailed person and works very hard behind the scenes. I know for a fact that much of the planning and details of this year’s ACS National Convention were ironed out and planned by Marilyn. Randolph told me that “He rides on the bus but Marilyn drives the bus.”

Randolph seriously became interested in camellias in 1981 when he and Marilyn moved to a new house in Tallahassee, FL located only a half mile away from the home of Dick and Roberta Hardison. The Hardison’s are another family that serious camellia growers should have heard about. Dick Hardison was a very brilliant man that held many advanced education degrees who worked in the Public Health Department field. He set and oversaw health regulations for the seafood restaurant industry for many years as well as other duties dealing with immunology and health safety. Randolph said he first met Dick Hardison sometime in 1981 when he went to buy some azaleas that Dick Hardison also grew and sold. When he arrived at the Hardison’s home it was during camellia bloom season and he was just totally amazed at the 700 plus blooming camellias varieties planted in the ground at the Hardison’s place. Randolph was then quickly hooked on camellias.

Over the next 15 years, Randolph helped Dick Hardison perform thousands of air layers each year and graft hundreds of camellias in addition to all the other jobs such as mixing dirt, fertilizing, spraying, etc., and in the process Randolph began to acquire a nice collection of camellias himself. Dick Hardison was a very special friend to Randolph and was a great camellia mentor. In 1982 Dick Hardison invited Randolph to join him, Lee Roy Smith, and Bob Gramling on a road trip to Valdosta, GA to attend the Valdosta Camellia Show. At this show they introduced Randolph to Hulyn Smith.

Well, Randolph and Hulyn instantly became good friends. Hulyn invited Randolph to visit his camellia garden and greenhouses in Valdosta, GA and Randolph bought several camellia scions to graft from Hulyn. Randolph’s and Hulyn’s friendship just continued to grow over the next several years. He would visit Hulyn many times each year and help Hulyn with all the many camellia tasks. After that first year of buying scions from Hulyn the rest were all given to him at no cost. Hulyn shared all his rare varieties and



seedlings with Randolph knowing that if someone else did not grow these varieties they might be lost forever if one of his died. Hulyn and Randolph worked together for many years registering many new camellia varieties. In fact, many of Hulyn's old seedlings are still being registered by Randolph even after Hulyn's death in March, 2011.



Randolph's Chicken Houses and First Greenhouse

As it so often happens to camellia addicts Randolph soon ran out of room to plant anymore camellias in his yard. He went shopping for a bigger lot somewhere in Tallahassee that had the right amount of shade trees, good rich soil, and plenty of room for camellias including greenhouses to keep them cozy and warm during the winter months. In the year 2000 he bought the perfect empty lot for his camellias but it took four more years to convince Marilyn that they should build a new house and move to this property. During the meantime (years 2000 – 2001) the property housed Randolph's chicken houses (see photo.) Later in 2002 he built his first greenhouse for his camellias and finally in 2004 their house was built and he and Marilyn moved into their current home. Randolph now has two large greenhouses that house about 400 camellias and there is not a "dud" in either greenhouse. His collection of Reticulata hybrids must be seen to be believed. He also has about 200 plants in pots.

Randolph is currently selling camellia scions and grafted camellias just as Hulyn Smith asked him to do right before Hulyn's death. The purpose is not really to make money but to continue distributing these rare camellia varieties that Hulyn developed or found from other growers from all over the world – many of these varieties can be found no place else and once you see them you will want them – they are really incredible. He grafted about 560 grafts this year. Several of these camellia varieties were auctioned at this year's ACS National Convention for one hundred dollars or more.



Blooms in Randolph's Greenhouse

Randolph and Marilyn joined the Tallahassee Camellia Society in 1985. As is the case with many camellia clubs most members at that time were elderly and many long time leaders soon died. Randolph and Marilyn with the help of several others worked extremely hard for many years to maintain and increase club membership during a rough time. Randolph has served three different terms as President of the Tallahassee Camellia Society since joining and has been the Tallahassee Camellia Show Chairman the past several years. Currently, the Tallahassee Camellia Society is very healthy with 70 members. The health of the club is evident in the outstanding 2015 ACS National Convention which was held in Tallahassee this past February. Randolph of course served as the Chairman of the convention and with much help from Marilyn and other club members it was a tremendous success.



Randolph at the Tallahassee Camellia Show

Randolph never rests for long so expect more exciting things from him soon. If you do not already know Randolph Maphis then by all means you need to get to know him. Attend area camellia shows and join the American Camellia Society and you will see him and read about him. He is definitely a great "camellian" but just as great a person.



# “IT’S REALLY ABOUT THE PEOPLE”

## The Blooms are Great — But, Camellia Clubs and Societies are About Friendships

I have thousands of photo’s of camellia blooms on my computer but not nearly enough of the folks that grow them and enjoy them. Here are a few of my favorites. I am not including names on purpose — if there are any people in the photo’s below you do not know please ask others at our camellia meetings so we can tell you all about them. I need to get photos of many Valdosta club members so I will be chasing many of you down with a camera and posting your photos in future newsletters.













# Join the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club Today

- ❖ Informative meetings – Camellias and much more!
- ❖ Share your gardening ideas and expertise with other members
- ❖ Group events

Meetings are typically held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from September through March in Valdosta. Call Mark Crawford at 229-460-5922 for more information.

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Joint membership

Name:

Address:

City, State Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Gardening Interests:

**Mail or give to:**

Sandra Seago

Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club

1802 N. Oak St.

Valdosta, GA 31602

**We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!**

(Please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

**Typical Meeting Time: 6:30 PM**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from September through March**

**But please e-mail or phone Mark Crawford to make sure of meeting date/time/location as we occasionally meet on other dates and at different locations**

**E-mail: [craw142@bellsouth.net](mailto:craw142@bellsouth.net)**

**Phone him at 229-460-5922**