# South Carolina Camellia Society

Camellia Japonica • Wildwood (Courtesy Wildwood Nurseries, Walterboro, S. C.)

> BULLETIN MARCH 1958

#### Mr+Mrs.

# Message From The President $\sqrt[5^{7}]{7}$

Dear Members:

If Winter comes-----and it did, AND HOW!

My heart bleeds each day when I hear the weather forecast — but we can't go on like this forever; and by the time you read this, I am sure that the weather will have cleared and that you will have some wonderful blooms in your garden.

It is needless to say how sorry I am that so many of the shows had to be cancelled. I had counted on seeing you at these shows and it has been a great disappointment that I have not been able to see you and enjoy the fine fellowship that these shows bring.

All is not lost, for the officers and directors voted to hold our annual spring members' meeting in Columbia on March 29th and that a Bloom Display would be held in connection with the meeting. We will have a fine program for you, beginning at 11:00 A. M., with a dutch luncheon at 1:00 P. M., and adjournment in time to view the bloom display. You will find further details of this meeting elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The Society has a fine program for the entire year. Jim Moore is to be congratulated for the January issue of the Bulletin with the "New Look". It has been repeated again with this issue and we sincerely hope that it is permanent. However, we can't keep this up if we don't get the members. Let me appeal to you folks who have not renewed, to do so immediately. Please show this Bulletin to your friends and acquaintances, and ask them to join; we need all of you.

Write me and let me know what we can do to improve the Society. Come, and bring your blooms and friends to the March meeting.

See you in Columbia!

Sincerely, H. E. Ashby, President. Report on Camellia Flower Blight Studies

SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, 1956-57

**T** WILL BE RECALLED that the objectives sought when this study was initiated were limited to the following:

- 1. To determine the extent to which the disease has become established in the Summerville area and how far from there it has spread.
- 2. To observe the seasonal development of the disease, — when the first flower infections appear, how long new infections continue, and the relation of weather conditions to the progress of the disease.
- 3. To carry out preliminary experiments with chemical and mechanical barriers to the emergence of apothecia (spore-producing bodies) from the over-wintering stage (sclerotia) present in the soil from infected flowers of previous years.
- 4. To prepare plots of known and, as far as possible, uniform infestation with the fungus for use in further control experiments.
- 5. A laboratory study of hot-water and other treatments of infected flowers, to be conducted by Dr. Baxter at Clemson College, with a view to devising practicable means of destroying fallen flowers so that they cannot reinfest the soil.

The results of these studies will be discussed in order, with the exception of No. 5, on which Dr. Baxter has submitted a separate report. Suggestions for the future course of studies of this disease, with special reference to the Summerville area, will then be offered.

1. Distribution and intensity of the disease

Within the town of Summerville the disease was first brought to public notice in the camellia garden of C. F. Prettyman, at Richardson Avenue and Oak Street, in February, 1956. Sclerotia of the camellia blight fungus also were found in the soil beneath several camellia plants in the former nursery operated by Walter Allan, outside the city limits along the extension of

#### Dr. Freeman Weiss

Richardson Ave., in October, 1956. Infected flowers were found on several camellia plants in both sites on February 16, 1957.

Periodic inspections were made in various parts of the town during the early part of March which showed the disease was present in the garden of Mrs. William Gadsden, at the corner of Carolina and Richardson Aves. In the Allan plot no infection was found at that time on plants more than about 100 yards south of the highway.

A general inspection was made throughout the town, on March 16, in company with Frank Cuthbert, a resident of the town and an employee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Infected camellia flowers were found in the following sites:

Two gardens on Second South St. Garden of Howard Prettyman at Richardson Ave. and Hickory St. Camellia plants in front of main residence of Mrs. William Gadsden west of city limits.

No infection was found at the Tea Farm, the Summerville Floral Nursery, the former Ball nursery on Carolina Ave., nor at the Carolina Inn, where several hundred plants in all were examined.

Another inspection was made two weeks later toward the end of camellia bloom, when few flowers remained on the plants, but the fallen flowers were in good condition to examine for incipient or developed sclerotia, a surer index of Sclerotinia infection than mere discoloration and breakdown of the petals. This inspection also was made in company with Frank Cuthbert. All the large camellia plantings mentioned above were again found free of Sclerotinia infection, with the exception of three flowers taken for further examination. One of these when incubated further developed typical symptoms of Sclerotinia blight. Two infected flowers were found at a residence on Briarwood Lane, near the city limits. This is less than a half-mile from the Mrs. William Gadsden residence and the Allan Nurserv.

Specific locations elsewhere in town that were negative for flower infection were: the George Miler and the Wilder gardens on Linwood Ave., the Cauthen garden on Dorchester Ave., and the J. W. Glenn garden on Magnolia Ave. and Third South Street.

In summary, no extensive infection has been found east of Pine St., or south of the Drainage Canal, and only three infected flowers were seen outside the area bounded by the grounds of Mrs. Wm. Gadsden, the Allan Nursery, and the part of the town north of the Drainage Canal and west of Laurel Street.

A clue to the length of time this disease has been present here can be found in the depth of soil under camellia plants in which sclerotia of the fungus can be found. In the former Allan Nursery, apothecia were found on stalks as much as two inches long growing from sclerotia buried in soil. These sclerotia would appear to have been formed in fallen flowers of at least two or three years earlier. In no other location were sclerotia found covered with soil to this depth.

### 2. Seasonal development of the disease

January was slightly below normal in temperature and much deficient in precipitation: There was only one moderately heavy rain, about <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch on the 16th and 17th; this was followed by the lowest temperature of the winter, 17° F, on the 19th (data from the Charleston airport). The weather turned warmer thereafter, reaching 81° F on the 28th, but there was no precipitation of any consequence until Feb. 2, when 0.3 inch was recorded. A close watch in the C. F. Prettyman garden, and a check of the Allan plot by Dr. Baxter on Feb. 2, disclosed no flower infection up to that time. The temperature rose to 83° F on Feb. 4 and a two-day rain, totaling 0.28 inch, occurred on the 10th and 11th. These conditions apparently prepared the way for the first outbreak of the disease this year.

The first petal blight infections were found in both the Prettyman and Allan gardens on February 16. Rain fell again on the 19th, and additional infections were found intermittently through the rest of that (Continued on page 2)

#### CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT STUDIES - continued

month and March, reaching a maximum about the middle of March, at which time no uninfected flowers could be found on any of about 20 plants in the Allan plot. Thereafter both camellia bloom and petal blight waned, so that by the end of March only a few flowers remained on the bushes. No new flower infections and no emergent apothecia were found in the Prettyman garden during the latter half of March, and prolonged search was required to find even an occasional apothecium in the Allan garden.

The disease ran its course essentially between Feb. 2 and March 30, with maximum infection about March 15. The principal factors in the buildup of the disease appear to have been the excess of temperature during February (mean  $56.6^{\circ}$  compared with normal  $51.9^{\circ}$ ), three days of rain in the middle of the month and heavy rains the last week, followed by four light rains totaling two inches through the first week of March.

#### 3. Experiments with fungicides to suppress apothecial emergence and sclerotial formation in infected flowers.

It was originally planned to set up small frames around each camellia in the Allan garden to provide plots of definite area to be treated with chemicals for suppression of apothecia. The frames were constructed and put in place, but the natural emergence of apothecia in them was so sparse and so variable that it was evident no valid comparisons could be made between the different plots, whether treated or not. Attention was then centered on artificially infesting all the plots, as uniformly as possible, for chemical treatments later. About 100 infected flowers were placed in each frame of 1 sq. yd. area, and left to form sclerotia and disintegrate in the soil naturally.

Two frames as originally prepared were filled with sawdust, and two with planer chips, to a depth of three inches. Inspection of these frames during the period February 16 to March 23 showed no a p o t h e c i a l emergence above this covering, and none were found underneath the mulch when it was removed on March 25. As at least a few apothecia were found in most of the neighboring plots, this result indicates that a threeinch layer of sawdust or chips, if uniformly maintained over contami-

nated soil, will largely prevent apothecial emergence. A tight cover of mulch paper or plastic would serve the same purpose. It appears, however, from the amount of flower infection in the Allan garden that spores from apothecia developing anywhere in the general vicinity within 50 to 100 yards may cause infection, and even more distant spreads, up to 1/2 mile is indicated. Mulching beneath camellias with paper, sawdust or chips might reduce the hazard of flower infection enough to justify this method, as most of the flowers fall close to the plants and most of the apothecia that have been found were within an area approximating the width of the branches.

A few tests were made to determine the effect of spray materials on camellia flowers, first as to spray injury and second as to possible suppression of sclerotial development if flowers were sprayed at an early stage of petal blight. Spray materials that were also under test on azaleas for the control of the related but distinct form of petal blight on that plant were tried: these included Captan, Dithane, Maneb, and Actidione.

None of these completely prevented the development of sclerotia even when flowers in an early stage of infection were heavily sprayed, but the tests showed that fresh, clean camellia flowers could be sprayed with Actidione at 20 parts per million, or with Dithane D-14 plus zinc sulfate at 2 quarts per 100 gallons, with no evidence of spray damage. Captan and Maneb, on the other hand, left a conspicuous residue or caused spotting, leaving the flowers dull and flaccid. It would be advisable to test stronger sprays on fallen flowers, where plant toxicity would not be a

(Continued on page 9)

# IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our Society's spring membership meeting will be held in Columbia on March 29th, at the Wade Hampton Hotel. The meeting will begin at 11:00 A. M. followed by a dutch luncheon at 1:00 P. M. An interesting program has been developed by Cecil Morris and there will be blooms. All members and their friends are urged to attend and bring all available blooms. Let's make this an outstanding noncompetitive exhibition.

Luncheon reservations should be made early. Please send check to James T. Moore, 2436 Glenwood Rd., Columbia.

#### PRICE \$2.25 PER PLATE.

All reservations should be sent so as to arrive by March 26th.

#### PROGRAM

- 9:00 Bring in blooms for Display (Second Floor, Palmetto Room.)
- 11:00 Call to Order

President's Report Committee Reports Business

- 11:30 Discussion of New Varieties Carl Weston, Charlotte
- 12:00 Panel Discussion, "Growing Camellias Under Glass", Mansfield Latimer, Moderator
- 12:45 Nomenclature discussion, Bill Coan, Fourth District Director
- 1:00 Adjourn for Luncheon
- 2:30 View of blooms exhibited. A court of honor will be selected and there will be a nice prize for the best collection displayed. Exhibitors are requested to identify varieties with any sort of tag available.

### Report on Investigations on Camellia Flower Blight

As Provided for by the Norwood Hastie Plan Set Up Under Pathological Investigations Fund

L. W. Baxter, D. A. Buckner and W. M. Epps

#### SUMMARY

T HE RESULTS of studies on the thermal inactivation of Sclerotinia camelliae revealed that temperatures of 47.5°C or above for intervals of 10, 20, or 30 minutes were adequate for rendering this fungus incapable of forming sclerotia. Buried flowers formed sclerotia abundantly while single petals, if kept moist, occasionally formed small sclerotia.

#### Procedure and Experimental Results I. Hot water treatment:

Diseased flowers from Summerville and Sumter were used during the course of these investigations. The flowers used for this study were selectively screened, care being exercised to insure that (1) each flower was affected similarly, approximately two-thirds of each flower being invaded by the fungus, and (2)each flower, at the time of treatment, was free of sclerotial tissue. No effort was made to discriminate against varieties, although each flower was required to have the ring of fungal tissue at the flower base, a characteristic symptom of this disease.

A constant temperature tank, accurate within one-half degree, centigrade scale, with a continuous agitator, was used for all work on the effect of temperature on this organism. Regular tap water, preheated to the prescribed temperature, was used as the bath. Wire baskets were used for keeping the flowers in place and care was exercised to completely submerge all flower parts during the entire treatment. A Victor interval timer was used to record accurately the time of each treatment. At least three diseased camellia flowers were used for each treatment.

In the first study, subsequent to each treatment, pieces of the diseased material were aseptically removed and plated on the medium suitable for the growth of this pathogen. As a rule, this organism is easily recovered from infected tissue, but after the hot water bath, various fast growing micro-organisms tend to overrun the pathogen so that accurate information on temperature effects is difficult to obtain.

These results indicated that a more precise measurement was needed. As a result, subsequent to treatment, the flowers were placed in moist paper towels, intact, and then placed in a onegallon glass jar with paper toweling as a cover. The treated flowers were then allowed to incubate at room temperature for three weeks after which the flowers were inspected and the data were recorded as shown in Table 1.

### II. Studies with diseased single petals

Diseased flowers were separated into single petals and these were placed on moist sphagnum in a rectangular box, 4" x 12" x 24" in size, and divided into two equal compartments. The two large open surfaces were covered with aluminum screen and subsequently the petals were covered with moist paper toweling. The entire box was then placed in semi-shade. The results, after an adequate incubation period, revealed that single infected petals were capable of forming small sclerotia; however, it was noted that one side of the box became quite dry and no sclerotia were formed on the petals in this area.

### III. Studies on buried diseased flowers

Single diseased flowers, and multiples of flowers, were buried to a depth of six inches (6"), confined in cans, under field conditions with adequate drainage provided. The soil used for covering these diseased flowers was a Cecil red clay without appreciable organic matter. Under these conditions, it was found that abundant sclerotia were formed subsequent to an adequate incubation period.

Table I. The effect of a constant tempera-
ture water bath on the ability of the
flower blight fungus to form sclerotia
in diseased camellia blossoms.

Temperature		Time flowers were submerged, minutes		
Centi.	Fahr.	10*	20*	30*
40**	104.0	+	+	+
42.5	108.5	+	+	Occ'snl.
45**	113.0	+		
47.5	117.5		_	
50**	122.0	. —	_	
52.5	126.5	-	_	
55**	131.0			
Check @		+	+	+

+ Indicated sclerotial formation

- Indicates no sclerotial formation

@ Held in water at room temperature

\* All replicated three times

\*\* Represents results of two different experiments, each replicated as indicated

Expend	iture of F	unds	
Labor - 172 hrs.	@ .75 per	hr\$129	9.00
Materials	~ ,	2	1.00
Total		\$150	0.00

#### Discussion

From these data, (Table 1), it is evident that camellia flowers infected with flower blight may be so treated with hot water as to prevent sclerotial formation. The inactivation point is low enough so that water from the hot water faucet will usually suffice for inactivation. Various equipment may be used but perhaps the most simple in design would be to collect the flowers in a drum of sufficient capacity and after a few days fill with hot water. The water should be run long enough to cover the flowers and the resultant temperature, after covering the diseased material, being above 120°F, preferably 131°F or higher since some factor for cooling should be permitted. However, a pertinent question remaining is what temperature is necessary to inactivate the sclerotia subsequent to formation. This is being done by treating the sclerotia as above and actually planting them aseptically under controlled laboratory conditions so that data can be

(Continued on inside back cover).

# Leaf Gall of Camellia

L. W. Baxter and F. H. Smith - Clemson College

A VERY CONSPICUOUS DIS-EASE attacking camellias, especially *Camellia sasanqua*, is frequently observed immediately prior to, or during the flush of spring growth. The disease first appears as "off-colored", fleshy, thickened, and enlarged leaves (hence the name leaf gall). The galls may be light pink to rose or some "off" shade of green. The appearance of the fleshy, enlarged leaves, however, is adequate for diagnosis.



Figure 1

The diseased shoots normally appear a few days before the healthy shoots on the same plant begin growth (figure 1). After approximately ten to fourteen days, the lower leaf surface (lower epidermis) ruptures and peels off, exposing a creamy white fleshy surface (figure 2). Eventually the entire lower epidermis is shed (figure 3). The fleshy area thus revealed is covered by a mass of spores (seed) which serve to propagate the causal agent, a fungus, Exobasidium camelliae. These spores are tiny, colorless bodies which may be readily carried by the wind from plant to plant. After the spores are produced and liberated, the fleshy galls die and wither. Occasionally these withered galls may be found late in the growing season.

The life cycle of the causal organism is not fully understood, but infection of new buds probably occurs

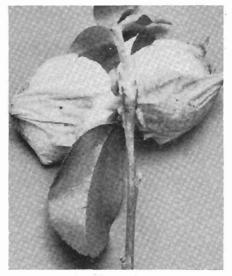


Figure 2

at the time of or soon after spore dispersal. Extensive observations have revealed that the disease attacks all of the leaves developing from a growth bud and the entire leaf is affected, as opposed to a related disease on azaleas which may attack portions of, or entire single leaves. The organism is restricted to single buds and therefore, is not systemic within the plant, since healthy and diseased shoots may be observed on the same branch (figures 1, 2 and 3). The position of the diseased bud may be either terminal (figure 1) or axillary (figure\_3).

The organism responsible for this disease apparently is specific to camellias, the form on azaleas not attacking camellias and vice versa. *Exobasidium camelliae* is a fungus closely related to the common mushrooms. Exobasidium means "basidia produced on the outside". Basidia (singular: basidium) are minute club-shaped structures on which are borne basidiospores, the seed of the fungus. Typically, there are four spores produced on each basidium. The basidia on a single enlarged shoot may number in the millions.

The disease appears to be more

severe during some years than others, and it is generally conceded that a higher incidence of disease occurs on heavily shaded plants than on plants in areas with free air drainage or fully exposed to the sunlight.

Control of this disease may be accomplished by gathering and destroying the enlarged shoots while the lower epidermis is still intact (figure 1). After the epidermis ruptures, the spores are liberated and it is too late to accomplish control by this method. It is probable that one or two thorough applications of a good fungicide at the time of the appearance of the disease would aid in its control.

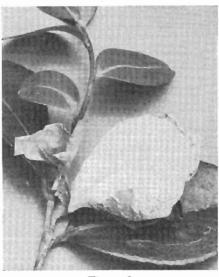


Figure 3

In conclusion, it should be stated that this disease, although very conspicuous and unsightly at the time of its appearance, apparently does little damage under ordinary growing conditions and is seldom seen by late spring or early summer.

We welcome as our new Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. W. D. Chassereau, 114 Chesterfield Rd., North Charleston. Everyone give him all the help possible in keeping memberships current, with correct names and addresses.

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### Camellias For The Piedmont

Joe Carter, Rock Hill, S. C.

DURING THE SHORT TIME I have been director of the fifth district, South Carolina Camellia Society, the question I am most frequently asked is - "What are some of the best varieties for our area?" Of course, the reference is to the Piedmont section of our state and has special meaning relative to cold-hardiness of bloom buds as well as the plants.

The following list is not complete by any means but is based on my actual observation of plants in my own garden or those of my neighbors. I am using the letters A, B, and C for method of classification with plus and minus to further broaden the areas of classifying. I am omitting D and E, as the varieties that fall in these classes are worthless in this area.

You will note there is only one variety rated an A-Plus, Berenice Boddy, which I consider to be in a class by itself. In the C range I am listing only three varieties and these only because they are old favorites and considered by many as a "must" to make a camellia garden complete. With a little extra care they will bloom most years.

In columns 3 and 4 you will note a brief description of color and flower form, in that order, to further aid you in selecting plants of the color and form you like best.

В	ADOLPHE AUDUSSON	Red	Semi-Double
В	ADOLPHE AUDUSSON VAR.	Red & White	Semi-Double
A Minus	AUNT JETTY	Red	Semi-Double to Peony
A Plus	BERENICE BODDY	Lt. Pink	Semi-Double
Α	BLOOD OF CHINA	Red	Semi-Double to Peony
C	DAIKAGURA	Rose & White	Peony
C Minus	DEBUTANTE	Pink	Peony
Α	DR. TINSLEY	Lt. Pink	Semi-Double
B Plus	EDWIN H. FOLK	Red	Semi-Double
Α	ELEANOR McDOWELL	Rose	Semi-Double
C Plus	ELEGANS	Pink & White	Anemone
В	EUGENE LIZE	Pink & White	Semi-Double to Peony
A Minus	GOV. MOUTON	Red & White	Semi-Double to Peony
B Minus	HAKU-RAKUTEN	White	Semi-Peony
B Minus	HERME	Pink & White	Semi-Peony
A Minus	KUMASAKA	Rose	Rose Form Double
B	LADY CLARE	Rose	Semi-Double
B Minus	LADY KAY*	Red & White	Peony
В	LINDSAY NEILL	Red & White	Semi-Double to Peony
B Plus	MRS. JOSEPHINE HEARN	Red	Semi-Double
В	ONIJI	Rose & White	Semi-Double
в	PROF. C. S. SARGENT	Red	Peony
B Minus	ROSE DAWN	Rose	Double
B Minus	VILLE DE NANTES*	Red & White	Semi-Double
В	WHITE EMPRESS	White	Semi-Double
В	WHITE GIANT	White	Semi-Double
B Plus	WINIFRED WOMACK	Blush Pink	Semi-Double
	DAWN (Vernalis)	White	
	HINO-DE-GUMO (Sasanqua)	White Tinged 1	Pink
	PINK SNOW (Sasangua)	Pink	
	SHISHI-GASHIRA (Hiemalis)	Red	
	SHOWA-NO-SAKAE (Hiemalis)	Pink	
	. ,		

\*Do not buy "own-root" plants of these varieties. They do not do well on their own root and should be grafted.

To further gladden the heart of any flower lover there follows a group of five varieties of the Hiemalis, Sasanqua and Vernalis species that will furnish blooms during the months of October, November and December, and in the case of DAWN, on into the months of January and February.

In the case of these six varieties I am omitting any sort of cold hardiness clasification or flower form as they usually bloom before severe weather arrives and the form of bloom is not too important. Actually, the beauty of these plants are in number of blooms rather than size, color and form.

Without question, there are other varieties that are just as hardy and will perform just as well in the Piedmont area of South Carolina as some I have listed here, but as I stated earlier, I am listing only the varieties of which I have first-hand information. Some of the introductions of the past few years may possibly prove just as hardy as most varieties listed here. One in particular, WILLIE HITE, is reported to be just as hardy as Berenice Boddy. Who knows? – there may be others.

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The roster in this issue is complete as of the date the material was sent to the printer. Check your name and address and if any error is found, notify Mr. Chassereau, Secretary. This issue is being sent to all 1957 members whether renewals have been received or not; however, this is the last one, so use the enclosed renewal blank and send in your dues at once, to assure continued receipt of Bulletins. If you have already renewed, sign up a friend; we need them and they need us. Checks should be made payable to The South Carolina Camellia Society.

### News From The Fourth District

C AMELLIAS in the upstate have had a rough time this year. Early in December, there was a 9-degree low in Spartanburg which hurt the buds severely. This is the lowest temperature Spartanburg has had since 1931, and I believe the worst winter in quite a number of years. I thought it would be interesting to canvass several camellia growers in the upstate and find out just what their reactions are.

Cecil Morris of Greenville says the official low temperature in December was 9.8 degrees, but at his farm that morning, they had between 4 and 6 degrees. Cecil thinks there is no damage to the plants other than the browning and burning of leaves. As to buds, he feels fifty per cent of the buds on his plants are still good. Cecil also says that he still looks forward to a lot of good camellia blooms this spring. Coming from a fine, experienced grower like Cecil, that means something.

C. Y. Brown of Spartanburg, a camellia enthusiast, thinks the plants were not damaged too severely. Some of the leaves were scorched and some of the buds killed. Mr. Brown believes that location of the plant has a great deal to do with its cold resistance.

Dick Lashley, of Greenville, another camellia grower of note, thinks there has been very little bud damage. He has a lengthy list of varieties that he has examined and finds in fine shape. This list, more or less, is made up of cold-hardy camellias as we know them. He thinks the main reason for so little damage is the fact that Greenville was lucky enough to have some cold weather before the big freeze.

Al Blackmore, who has a very fine camellia collection, expresses the opinion that "Margaret and I have yet to see sign of permanent damage to our camellias. There is no evidence of split bark, no bud drop and no damage to foliage". Al also makes notice of the fact that he uses 0-14-14 to harden off his camellias in the fall. He also says he tries to have plenty of moisture in the ground when freezing weather approaches. The list of cold-hardy camellias that Al has ex-

#### Bill Coan, Spartanburg

amined and finds to be in good shape, more or less corresponds with coldhardy camellias as we know them. However, there is one discrepancy; he finds no damage to Mathotiana.

J. G. Ferguson, of Laurens, writes me that he only has a few camellias at present, because he has recently built a new home and hasn't had an opportunity to replenish his camellias. Jim has grown camellias for a good many years and is an expert grower. Jim has checked, by examining camellias in and around Laurens, especially Mrs. Easterby's camellias, and thinks the plants themselves are unhurt, but believes that only plants that were well protected will bloom. Jim is also of the opinion that none of the plants in and around Laurens took the severe cold very well.

Russell P. Crow of Pauline, advises that a recent check of his camellias indicates considerable damage by the seven-degree low in December. Bloom buds on Elegans and Mathotiana families were especially hard hit, as they were farther advanced than other varieties. He also says that he has had very little dropping of buds so far and believes such varieties as Lady Clare, Ville de Nantes, Donckelarii, Dr. Tinsley, Berenice Boddy, and Virgins Blush will have good blooms if the weather cooperates in February and early March. He believes that 50 to 60 per cent of the buds are killed or damaged.

Tom Butler, of Spartanburg, who is a camellia grower of renown, says that his plants are not damaged to any extent and that three days after the nine-degree weather, he and Sarah had untouched or only slightly damaged blooms of Berenice Boddy. In regard to Governor Mouton, he says he has had blooms before the first freeze, and after it, they bloomed again although the blooms are smaller. Tom says also he has no damage to Leucantha but Tricolor seems to be damaged. White Empress and Frizzle White seem to be damaged. Empress held up well and he thinks he will get good blooms. Mathotiana is questionable and Donckelarii and Ville de Nantes are also hurt. Tom also says he is very pleased with the way his hybrids have acted - J. C. Williams grows like a weed, and blooms out in very cold weather. Tom says he has absolutely no damage to the plants themselves. I might add that I know of a number of camellia growers in this section who have had plants severely damaged.

Ernest and Ethel Burwell, Spartanburg, grow quite a number of camellias and after the nine-degree weather hit, they still expect to have quite a number of good blooms from their later varieties. The plants themselves were damaged very little, if any. Ernest says there is no apparent damage to Herme, Kumasaka and Magnoliaflora. Mathotiana Supreme, Alba Plena, Rev. John Bennet, and Elegans buds are hurt. He has an Aunt Jetty which was doing well before the nine-degree low but after it, the blossoms are all runts, about one-third the normal size. Ernest Burwell's thought is that while this is a winter colder than average for the Carolinas, he ventures the guess that it would be better than average for The Potomac Valley Camellia gardeners, and they have beautiful blooms. Why shouldn't we have the same, although most of our camellias will be a great deal later than usual?

From my own experience, I believe that 75 per cent of the buds are killed or hurt and only the hardiest varieties such as Winifred Womack, Dr. Tinsley, Willie Hite, and Emily Wilson will bloom perfectly this year. There is also plant damage although it is not great in some of the gardens I have visited in and around Spartanburg. The optimistic note expressed by Dick Lashley, Al Blackmore and Cecil Morris, however, does brighten my spirits.

Another thing that we so often overlook, that will give the camellia grower of the upstate more benefit than anywhere else, is the camellia test gardens at Clemson. The \$2.00 a year membership dues to the South Carolina Camellia Society is the biggest bargain I know of, and a portion of this \$2.00 is allocated to the camellia test gardens. I know that all camellia growers in the upstate will await the findings of the camellia test gardens as regards cold-hardy camellias.

# Bailey Hortorium Camellia Study

A N ANNOTATED Camellia Checklist and supporting documentary record, which will act as a foundation for uniformity of camellia names throughout the world, is the goal of a project recently initiated by the Bailey Hortorium of Cornell University.

The chaotic situation in this field exists, in part, because camellias are grown in different areas of the world without any provision for standardization of names between these areas. Today one camellia may have a dozen names, or one name may be applied to several completely different camellias. New importations and originations will complicate the scene further unless the present confusion is cleared up.

The study program, which will extend over five years, is made possible by a \$59,000 grant from the Longwood Foundation, established by the late Pierre du Pont.

Director of this camellia project is Dr. George H. M. Lawrence, director of the Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University. Field work and research are being carried on by Ralph N. Philbrick, a botanist now living in Los Angeles.

The project's advisory group includes: William Hertrich, Curator Emeritus, Huntington Botanical Gardens; Ralph S. Peer, President, American Camellia Society; Arthur C. Brown, Editor, Camellia Yearbook; H. Harold Hume, University of Florida; and Charles E. Puddle, Aberconway Estate, Bodnant, Great Britain. Others will be added.

Mr. Philbrick is documenting camellias in Southern California during the first nine months of the program. He will travel in January and February of 1958 to the Gulf Coast area; in March to Northern California; and in April, to the Pacific Northwest. In each of these areas he will visit as many of the outstanding collections

#### Cornell University

as possible, photograph the camellias there, make herbarium specimens of each, and prepare records of flower color, foliage characters, habit, and growth conditions.

The center of active research will move to Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, in June 1958. Trips will be made from there to study collections and nurseries in Great Britain and Western Europe in 1959 and 1961 and to Japan in 1962, as well as to centers in this country.

This program has a twofold goal: to establish an international annotated checklist of camellia cultivar names (horicultural varieties); and to prepare a permanent record of all cultivars now grown in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

The resulting Annotated Checklist will contain all known published camellia names, both those used currently and those now obsolete but to be found in the literature. When one variety has been known under more than one name, its synonyms will be noted. Each valid name will be followed, whenever possible, by a description of the original plant for which the name was first used.

There are hundreds of older names that may not clearly be associated with any plant now grown. To try to apply these older names to plants now known by later names is not logical except where acceptable evidence is available. The new code of horticultural nomenclature, now in preparation, takes this type of problem into consideration. If a camellia cultivar, currently grown under one name, is found through research to have originally had a much older now-forgotten name, a mechanism is to be available whereby the present name may be retained.

The new nomenclature code will also allow for a cultivar to have one name in one language and another in a different language. The responsibility of providing a cross-reference for these "commercial synonyms," in order that no confusion results, will fall to an international registration authority (when established).

This is a long range plan; it will require full cooperation from camellia enthusiasts to assure success of the project. Growers and specialists who have large or old camellia plantings can aid the documentation phase of this project by contacting Mr. Philbrick at the University of California at Los Angeles, advising him of their interest and willingness to cooperate. Any histories of camellia plantings or gardens, published or in the form of personal notes, will also be valuable.

In addition, there is an acute need to know who processes old catalogues. both of this country and of Europe; especially those of Verschaffelt, the 19th century Belgian camellia authority. The project needs to know also of persons who have made collections for the last dozen years of American catalogues. The Annotated Checklist expects to draw heavily on the nursery catalogue collection of the Bailey Hortorium. This is one of the world's finest, yet many of the lists and smaller catalogues of firms which specialize in camellias are lacking. To assure maximum coverage, the reader is invited to advise Mr. Philbrick if he has extended holdings of catalogues containing camellia offerings. When it is learned where these are, and of their availability, it will be possible to check them against listings at Cornell.

Every person or firm now issuing catalogues and lists should make certain that a copy of each is sent to the Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Wholesale lists are needed as well as are retail lists. Information as to who is offering what helps the Bailey Hortorium to answer questions of retailers and

(Continued on page 9)

#### Bulletin

## Fifth District News

Joe Carter, director of the fifth district, urges all members who live in this district to enter the "NEW MEMBERSHIP" contest. Valuable prizes are to be given away, and listen to this — only ONE new member application and you are a WIN-NER.

The contest is open to all members of the South Carolina Camellia Society living in the fifth district except officers of the SCCS and their families. Now is the chance to get out and help not only your Society but yourself, by getting new members for our society. Start today and win a valuable scion or even one of the rare grafts that are to be given away. CHEROKEE, CHESTER, CHES -TERFIELD, FAIRFIELD, KER -SHAW, LANCASTER AND YORK COUNTIES comprise the fifth district.

#### RULES

- 1. Only NEW-MEMBER applications will be counted.
- 2. Send all applications to Joe Carter, 1199 Alexander Rd., Rock Hill, S. C.
- 3. Be sure to show name and address of new member and your own name so proper credit can be given you.
- 4. All applications must be in the hands of the judges not later than two weeks prior to the 1958 Fall meeting of the SCCS.
- 5. Judges for the contest will be: MANSFIELD LATIMER, 1st Vice President, SCCS. FRED McGEE, Chairman Membership Committee, SCCS. JIM MOORE, Editor, SCCS Bulletin.
- 6. The decision of the judges shall be final.

#### **REMEMBER!**

Membership fee is \$2.00 per year, and this one fee includes husband and wife.

You can send membership applications in on a plain piece of paper, but if you want application forms write Joe Carter at above address.

#### PRIZES

The contestant turning in the most new applications in the entire district will receive the grand prize, a oneyear graft of MRS. D. W. DAVIS. In case of a tie, winner will be decided by lot. Loser (or losers) will be entitled to the prize for his or her county. Winner of the grand prize will not be eligible for any other prize.

The winning contestant in each of the seven counties in the district shall receive a one-year graft of a rare variety. In case of a tie the winner shall be decided by lot. The final selection of the seven county prizes are as follows:

TOMORROW, one-year graft, donated by Mrs. Ross H. Hayes, Tick Tock Nursery, Monticello Road, Thomasville, Ga.

KRAMER'S SUPREME, one-year graft, donated by Mr. Floyd Chambers, Kramer Bros. Nurseries, P. O. Box 200, Upland, Calif.

BILLIE McCASKILL, one-year graft, donated by Mr. Vern McCaskill, McCaskill Gardens, 25 S. Michillinda Ave., Pasadena, Calif.

GUILIO NUCCIO, one-year graft, donated by Mr. Julius Nuccio, Nuccio's Nurseries, 3555 Chaney Trail, Altadena, Calif. EDELWEISS

#### GUEST OF HONOR

BEN PARKER

The county winners shall choose the graft they desire in order of highest number of applications turned in. Highest number first choice, next highest second choice, etc.

Those who turn in applications but do not win one of the grafts will receive a scion of their choice, as availability permits, from the following varieties:

A. For 5 new applications: Mrs. D. W. Davis, Ava Maria, Doris Freeman, Ben Parker, Aaron's Ruby, Betty Sheffield, Billie McCaskill, Edelweiss, Faith, Guest of Honor, Guilio Nuccio, Crusselle, Queen Juliana, Barbara Woodroof, Lynn Woodroof, Pod Mate, Captain Blood, Dr. McIntosh, Dr. Knapp, Gen. Mark Clark, Coronation.

- B. For 3 new applications: Ethel Davis, Mississippi Beauty, Conrad Hilton, Mary Ann Houser, Miss Savannah, Pink Champagne, Pink Clouds, Pink Shadows, Tick Tock, Reg Ragland, Tomorrow, Sweet Bonair, Sun Up, Pearl Maxwell, Snow Nymph, Carolyn Tuttle, Selma Shelander, Fire Falls, Emmett Barnes, Gertrude Murray, Nina Avery, Frosty Morn, Kerlerec, Break O' Day, Donation, California, Drama Girl, Emily Wilson, Fashion Note, Sunset Glory, Undaunted, Seventh Heaven, Masterpiece, Masquerade, Shiro Chan, Wildwood, Mrs. Bertha Harms, Driftwood, Bride's Bouquet, Mattie O'Reilly, Tiny Bud, Island Echo, Max Goodley, Simeon, Mandarin, Peter Pan, Lady Kay, Yvonne Tyson, Buddy, Clara Green, Martha Brice, Donna Kaye, Eclatante, Fairest Day, Gayle Welden, Grace Bunton, Hubert Osteen.
- C. For 1 new application: Lawrence Walker, Letitia Schrader, Big Beauty, C. M. Wilson, Lena Jackson, Lila Rosa, Dr. Tinsley, Dave C. Strother, Edwin Folk, Eddie G. Wheeler, Frizzle White, Gov. Earl Warren, Louise McClay, Mathotiana Supreme, Paulette Goddard, Helen K, Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek, Mme. Marguerite Calusant, S. Peter Nyce, Scented Treasure, Charlotte Bradford, Thelma Dale, Mrs. Lyman Clark, Marjorie Magnificent, Marion Mitchell, Mary Charlotte, Anemonaeflora, Bessie Morse Bellingrath, Cho-Cho-San, Crepe Rosette, Pink Duchess, Fragrant Jonquil, Frances McLanahan, Fishtail, Flame, Var., Haku-Rakuten, J. S. Bradford, Joshua Youtz, Daikagura (this one is the famous Wannamaker strain), Mrs. Harry Sinclair, Mrs. Howard Asper, Mrs. Josephine Hearn, La Reine, Puritan Lass, Quaintance, High Hat, Saturnia, Spring Sonnet, St. Andre, Vashti, Winifred Womack, Willie Hite, Ville de Nantes (lots of white), Ville de Nantes (all red), Donckelaari (Tea Garden strain), White Empress, White Giant, Princess Elizabeth, Jean May, Pink Snow, Pink Lassie, Duchess.

Congratulations to our President, H. E. Ashby for having been elected Director-at-Large of the ACS. This is indeed a signal honor to our Society and South Carolina.

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#### CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT STUDIES - continued

major concern, to prevent the development of fertile sclerotia. This supplement to other methods of control could conceivably lighten the chore of collecting and destroying fallen flowers, which is especially difficult when the flowers fall into a coarse mulch or when the individual petals scatter, as in some camellia varieties.

The role of the so-called *microconi*dia, which are produced in abundance on the flowers at one stage of infection by this fungus, has not yet been determined. From analogy with other fungi of similar morphology it is supposed that they serve as spermatia, or sexual cells, in a fertilization process during the formation of sclerotia. It is evident that they do not serve in the aerial spread of the fungus, as the macroconidia do in the azalea petal blight fungus, for all attempts to germinate them have been unsuccessful. It seems likely that they have an essential role in the life cycle of the camellia fungus, however, and if they could be inactivated the life cycle of the fungus might be broken.

Many of the sclerotia produced in camellia flowers appear to be infertile. They appear shriveled and dull instead of plump and bright; when placed in conditions presumably favorable for germination they become overgrown with green mold (Trichoderma) and disintegrate. It is reasonable to suppose that these sclerotia failed to become fertilized early in their development, hence the importance of a control method aimed at prevention of fertilization through destruction of the *microconidia*, or the receptive apparatus of the sclerotia, by spraying fallen flowers.

Among the chemicals found effective in preventing apothecial emerg-ence, as reported by F. A. Haasis and E. G. Nelson in the Camellia Yearbook, 1953, was pentachloronitrobenzene. Applications of this material to the soil at the rate of 100 and 200 lbs. per acre reduced the emergence of apothecia to 7 and 1, respectively, per sq. yd. as compared with 25 and 53 in comparable nontreated plots. Since then this compound, under the trade name TERRACLOR, and manufactured by the Olin Mathieson Chemi-cal Corp. of Baltimore, has been widely used in combating plant diseases caused by sclerotium-forming fungi, against which it appears to have specific properties.

Circumstances did not permit a test of this material against camellia petal blight at Summerville in the spring of 1957, but tests to determine its effect on the azalea petal blight fungus, and on garden vegetation under conditions comparable to those prevailing in camellia plantings, were made. No evidence of plant toxicity was seen even when Terraclor was sprayed or dusted on azaleas, camellias, and ground cover plants at the highest rate used by Haasis and Nelson. Corroborative evidence of nontoxicity to plants has been produced in numerous tests by the manufacturers and by agricultural experiment stations, and Terraclor has been registered for use in controlling dampingoff, and root and stem rots of various vegetable and ornamental crops that are caused by sclerotial fungi. It has been shown to have an extremely low human and animal toxicity.

The manufacturers state that it has been found important " to keep a thin chemical film on all open and bare soil areas in the immediate vicinity of camellia plants;" it can be applied as either spray or dust, at the rate of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lb. of active Terraclor per 100 sq. ft. These appear to be practicable recommendations for use in typical camellia plantings, and this material has certain apparent advantages over Cyanamid Elgetol, ferbam, and sulfur for this purpose, either in lesser plant toxicity or greater fungicidal and lasting effects. This material should be given major attention not only in further experimental work on camellia flower blight, but it also appears to offer the best present prospect of practical control in individual garden and community projects to eradicate the disease.

#### SUMMARY

The distribution of camellia petal blight in the Summerville area appears to be chiefly limited to less than 10 private gardens located in the northwest corner of the city and the adjacent country estate. It does not involve any commercial nursery or the large camellia plantings at the Carolina Inn or Tea Farm.

From that section of the city, apparent spread presumably by airborne spores has been noted in one instance to a distance of about half a mile, but most of the camellia plantings in the city had no trace of this infection in 1957.

#### CAMELLIA SHOW HANDBOOK

The Show Handbook is on the press and will be ready for distribution at the March meeting of the Society and thereafter. We recommend that each Club or Society sponsoring Camellia Shows, purchase at least 12 of these books so that the Chairman of each committee will have a copy. The price is \$10.00 per dozen. Individual copies are available at \$1.50 each, plus  $50 \notin$  for postage and packing. The Handbook is comprehensive, covering in detail all phases of show procedure,

85 pages, covered in a color print of the variety Wildwood. Place your order now with H. E. Ashby,

1372 N. Edgewater Drive, Charleston, S. C. You will need this guide to set up your Show for next year.

The situation appears favorable for keeping the disease confined to its present limits, and perhaps for its eventual elimination, provided that the owners or occupants of all properties now known to harbor the disease will promptly and aggressively practice the repressive measures outlined in a recent bulletin on this subject from Clemson College.

The fungicide, pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB), offered under the trade name Terraclor, appears at present to be the most suitable material for use in soil applications by garden owners. It should first be applied 3 or 4 weeks prior to the expected date of initial flower infection (early to mid-February) and possibly repeated at 2-week intervals until the middle or end of March. The recommended rate is ½ lb. of acual PCNB per 100 sq. ft. to the area beneath and immediately adjacent to each camellia plant.

#### BAILEY HORTORIUM-(Continued from page 7)

individual purchasers who want a particular camellia, but do not know where it is available. The listings of every catalogue received are transferred to a master card file which is the basis for answering annually thousands of inquiries for commercial sources.

Please address correspondence regarding this camellia project to Ralph N. Philbrick, Botany Department, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California.

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- TEXAS:

#### DIRECTORS MEETING

The Directors met in Columbia on February 22 to plan the Society's activities for the coming year. Mr. Ashby announced that the Treasurer's balance is now \$668.93, and that we need to double our present membership of 558 if we are to have sufficient funds available to operate the Society effectively. The handbook on Conduct of Camellia Shows, being written and edited by Mr. Ashby and his committee, is almost ready for the printer and should be available for distribution in the near future.

The handbook is being developed as a Society project and is designed to assist local clubs in the planning and staging successful shows. It will probably retail for \$2.00 for a single copy but it is recommended that clubs and societies purchase 12 copies, which will be sold for \$10.00. This is a substantial reduction and clubs will find that a dozen copies available for all committees will simplify their job.

Frank Brownlee, Chairman, Clemson Test Garden, described the zero weather experienced in the garden and will give a report on plant performance as soon as the weather permits a thorough survey.

Invitations were received from Charleston and Columbia to sponsor the Society's 1958 fall show. After considerable discussion it was voted to accept the Charleston invitation. The date will be set by Mr. Ashby after conferring with the Charleston officials.

If it can be arranged, we will publish a Summer Bulletin this year as a primer on basic and fundamental camellia culture. A fine display of blooms was furnished by Johnny Hair.

#### SHOW RESULTS

#### **CHARLESTON**

The top award winners at the Garden Club of Charleston held on January 25 and 26 were: Best In Show, BETTY SHEFFIELD, Under glass, John M. Gaver, Aiken; Best Amateur, IWANE SHIBORI, Open, E. Sutter, Summerville; Best MATHOTIANA, Johnny Hair, Columbia; Best Professional, EUGENE LIZE, Gus Roberts, Savannah; Runner up, DONCK-ELARI, Gus Roberts, Savannah; Best Seedling, Dr. E. L. Gehry, Orangeburg; Gold Certificate, W. W. Osborne, Savannah, and Silver Certificate, E. Sutter, Summerville.

#### **ORANGEBURG**

Almost 2,000 blooms were exhibited at the Órangeburg show on February 8 and 9 which turned out to be an outstanding show despite the terrible camellia weather for many days before. The magnificent display of under glass specimens consisted of 193 varieties and was enough to warm one's heart for an entire sea-There were also 117 varieties son. entered in the open class. Top award winners were: GROWN IN OPEN, Best Flower, VIRGINS BLUSH, M. D. Boudolf, Charleston; Gold Certificate, Mrs. B. F. Diamond, Savannah; Silver Certificate, Mrs. W. W. Osborne, Savannah; UNDER GLASS, Best Flower, TOMORROW, Var., H. H. Dickson, Greenville; Gold Certificate, Mrs. J. Ed. Anderson, Timmonsville; Silver Certificate, Mrs. B. F. Diamond, Savannah; Best Seedling by Dr. D. M. Rivers, Greenville. The Highly Commended Certificate was also awarded to a seedling entered by Gus Roberts of Savannah.

#### DEDICATION

This issue of the Bulletin is dedicated with respect and affection to Judge Marvin M. Mann, the devoted first President of the South Carolina Camellia Society. At press time Judge Mann was seriously ill in the Columbia Hospital.

Our prayers and best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery are offered.

#### CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT -

#### (Continued from page 3)

taken on their germination. It is believed, however, that the temperature will not be appreciably different for either mycelial or sclerotial inactivation. In regard to single diseased petals forming sclerotia, it is evident that free shattering types of camellia flowers, having flower blight, may serve as a source of infection from year to year. If free air passage is made available, however, it is possible that the petals may dry before sclerotial formation. It is apparent that any effort being made to pick up and destroy flowers should also consider the single petals. It is felt that single petals will not cause undue damage since the inoculum potential will remain low. The real damage lies in the ability of single petals to disperse the disease from one location to another, especially where strict sanitation is not practiced.

Efforts to eradicate the disease by burying diseased flowers is hereby discouraged unless there is no possibility for disturbing them for many years. It is practically impossible to make any such statements under the present conditions because of housing developments, industry, etc. (See last paragraph).

It is believed that the gardener with a limited number of camellias could successfully utilize the hot water treatment since ordinary hot water from the tap is adequate to inactivate the fungus. Data from four separate sources of hot water revealed that the temperature averaged about  $60^{\circ}$ C ( $140^{\circ}$ F) adequate to inactivate the fungus.

Supplementary data, which will be forthcoming, reveals that these sclerotia are subject to deterioration when kept under certain conditions. This may provide a new method of control.

Our closing thought: To double our present membership, each member needs to bring in only one new member!

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