

Carolina Camellias



Dee Davis, Var.

REGISTRATION
AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY
ANNUAL FALL CONVENTION
Charleston, South Carolina
November 19-23, 1980

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

	On or Before Oct. 25, 1980	After Oct. 25, 1980
Registration Fees		
Full Convention	\$70.00	\$75.00
Friday and Saturday Only	\$48.00	\$55.00
Saturday Only	\$25.00	\$30.00

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"The Year of the Camellia"

Headquarters:
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Streets
Charleston, S. C.

Convention Chairmen:
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Summerville, S. C. 29483
873-8967

Carolina Camellias

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Editor's Page



Perhaps you have noticed that every now and then an issue of *Carolina Camellias* will give an unusual amount of attention to one particular club or society. You are right. *Carolina Camellias* features different clubs from time to time. This issue features the Virginia Camellia Society. We believe that the more we know about each other, the more we will appreciate each other and the closer we will become.

The Virginia Camellia Society actually is composed of members from Norfolk and cities and communities close to Norfolk, with a few out-of-state members. This is somewhat further north than you would expect to find camellias flourishing, but flourish there, they do! Some years ago at a show in Greensboro, North Carolina, an exhibitor (not from VCS) showed two blooms of the same variety with different names on the cards — 'Laurel Leaf' and 'Lalla-rook.' When this was pointed out to the show chairman before the judging, he replied, "It doesn't matter. He won't win sweepstakes — Charlie Mason from Norfolk is here today."

As this issue of *Carolina Camellias* goes to the printers, the organizational meeting of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (if that's what its name turns out to be) is still ahead of us. When you receive your copy, it will be over. Too

bad! I really would like to be able to report on it in this issue as it will be stale news by the time the Spring issue is out. We expect a large, enthusiastic turn-out for this event. We have reason to believe that there will be camellia lovers from Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia. This interest is due largely to the contagious excitement that Son Hackney, the coordinator of the meeting, generates whenever he's on the subject of camellias.

This camellia season ought to be a fantastic one. We're going to see many new ones that promise to be excellent camellias. We're going to see blooms for the first time of quite a few new retic hybrids from California, some from Australia and the dreamed-about 'Mona Jury' from New Zealand. Those who attended the Norfolk show last March saw 'Mona Jury,' but the exhibitor said that it was not a representative flower. There is not much doubt that it can be an eye-catching, best-in-show winning, beauty. Just ask any of those lucky people who attended the ICS convention in New Zealand last year!

I hear from a reliable New Zealand source that Mr. Les Jury is not happy at all that 'Mona Jury' is being grown by so many and exhibited on show tables here. It has not been officially released.

It is an inexplicable fact of camellia life that the originator of a good camellia *cannot* keep it to himself. It will "get away from him" no matter how determined he is to keep it out of circulation. One of the best jobs in recent years of keeping a camellia off the market is Mr.

Burwell's effort in respect to 'Glowing Embers.' But I will take any bets that 'Glowing Embers' will be glowing from many a show table in the States very soon. No, friends, I don't have 'Glowing Embers.' Wish I did!

VISITING A GREENHOUSE?

JOE AUSTIN, Four Oaks, N.C.

Sooner or later, most of us will visit another grower's greenhouse. Since I have been a greenhouse grower for thirty years, I shall try to tell you how to act and what, and what not, to do.

Some of us have elaborate greenhouses and some have chicken house greenhouses. This makes no difference because we think just as much of one as we do the other. We all spend lots of money buying plants, trading scions, buying oil and gas and lying to our brides how little it costs to do this.

If you are a good grower and win best-in-show on occasion, you will get more visits. Most people will want to come right after a show where they can see your blooms. This is the wrong thing to do because the grower has just cut every good bloom in his greenhouse for the show. Always try to visit a greenhouse grower on Thursday.

We now get to the camera fan or the photographer. He will call up the night before and say, "Hey-o-dare, baby. I'll be down in the morning to see you." So you think he will drive up around 8:00 or 9:00 am. You keep waiting and he arrives at 11:45, just in time to knock you out of your lunch. He gets out of the car armed with a light meter and one camera on each shoulder. Most of the time he is on the heavy side with an overcoat on. Most greenhouses have narrow walkways, about thirty inches wide. This is so more space may be us-

ed for plants. Well, you get one of these cats that's three axe handles wide with two cameras, and by the time he gets a bloom in focus, he has given you heart trouble. I have seen their type on bus after bus all over the world. He will shoot at a crow just as soon as he will a cathedral.

Now we get to the ladies, as sweet and pretty as they are. They will always come with coats flopping and a pocket book that will hold a peck of potatoes. There is no way you can visit a greenhouse with this kind of garb.

Let me tell you how to visit a greenhouse and be welcomed again. Please wear reasonably tight-fitting clothes. Don't carry an umbrella, cameras or anything that will damage a bloom. You will see when you walk in, clorox jugs, paper bags, etc. Don't touch because he is grafting, hybridizing or rooting. He may have just grafted a scion from New Zealand, and just moving that bag will upset a year's work. Let your host pick up the blooms if you want to see them. Ask questions. Most of the fellows I know will gladly answer them. This is one way to interest more people in growing camellias, and we need more members in all our clubs, especially the younger people. Call up before you go and let your host know the time you will arrive. Above all, be punctual.

So, if you will follow these few simple rules, you will always be welcome.

Presidents' Messages

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



I hope that everyone has had a great Summer. By the time you read this, the Atlantic Coast Convention will be over and the camellia season will be upon us again.

I sure hope that you have fertilized and given your plants plenty of tender love and care so that you will have prize-winning blooms to support as many shows as possible.

I hope that every member will make a special effort to support the A.C.S. Convention in Charleston in November. Make your reservations now.

Oliver Mizzell, President

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Mrs. Ira Hefner wonders what kind of a show we shall have along with our plant sales considering that in many gardens the buds are tiny or not detectable yet. The prolonged drought has seriously delayed bud formation and only those of us who have wells can assuage the thirst of our green-leaved "charges," that is, without paying dearly for city water.

The Millers water daily from their several 13 feet deep driven wells during these very dry weeks and suspend the watering for only three days following a one-inch or better rain.

"Lil" Miller stated that with an abundance of water, the buds during August will get up to a size for "gibbing" which should commence the last of August and continue through October.

The Hefners have found that scions grafted on air-layered plants did not "take" and another tentative discovery is that hybrids do not air-layer well, but that grafts on hybrids generally are successful.

Oddly, last summer was a dry one, but we did have plenty of flowers for both the fall and spring shows, the latter turning out very well in spite of an almost disastrous freezing spell occurring very shortly before the show date. The camellia plant is a sturdy one that surprises us with beautiful flowers under very adverse circumstances.

Charlie Mason has a huge inventory of fine plants this year. He waters.

Patricia and I cannot be at the Myrtle Beach Atlantic Coast meeting since we will be in England during that time, but several of our members will attend. We are solidly for the new organization and wish it well.

John K. Walsh, President

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Our Fall meeting will be held on November 15, 1980, at Wilmington. We will have a Fall show at Long Leaf Mall on the same day. Don't forget to gib your camellia plants so that you will have blooms for this show.

As a member of the society, you should make positive actions to increase our membership. Why don't each of you get one additional member? Give a friend a gift membership for a birthday gift or Christmas gift!

I hope that each of you will have a most enjoyable blooming season! I am looking forward to seeing you at Wilmington, North Carolina, on November 15.

William W. DeLaney, President

REGISTRATION

**Convention Motel, HOLIDAY INN, DOWNTOWN
125 Calhoun Street, Charleston, S.C.**

Single \$30
Double \$40
Suites \$80

Three persons per room \$45
Four persons per room \$50

No charge for children under 19 in the same room with parents. Advance reservations only at this rate.

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail before October 25, 1980

Please detach and return registration form or the required information and your check for the first night's lodging to guarantee your room to: Carolina Travel & Tours, Inc., 615 Wesley Dr., Suite 304, Charleston, S.C. Your vouchers will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment.

Holiday Rent-A-Car: Standard size car — 100 free miles & 72 hours: \$54

ABOUT THE COVER FLOWER

'Dee Davis, Var.' is described officially as a rose-pink, blotched white, medium, rose form double. It was originated by Dr. Jack Davis of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The above description does not do this variety justice. The exquisite form and coloring would have to be seen to be truly appreciated. It won best formal or rose form double at the show in Jackson, Mississippi this year.

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Oliver Mizzell, <i>President</i>	Rt. 1, Box 112, Elloree, S.C.
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NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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Mrs. C.E. Sears, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	1355 Monterey Ave., Norfolk, Va.

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A.J. Parsons	Dr. J.M. Habel	C.C. Mason
Dorothy Urquhart		William G. Redwood

TIDEWATER CAMELLIAS

LESTER O. WOOD, Virginia Beach, Virginia

What camellias do well in the Tidewater area? With a limited number of plants and expertise, as compared to some of our local growers, it was an easy decision to enlist their help in compiling this list. Accordingly, the varieties named in this article were submitted mostly by Mrs. Crockett, the Masons and Millers. In preliminary planning, it seemed appropriate to include some of those varieties which do not perform well. However, at the risk of incurring the displeasure of any growers with such a listing, this idea was abandoned. The soundness of this decision was confirmed by a note from Charlie Mason: "After culling out the undesirables for a period of over thirty years, our entire collection performs perfectly and almost all are cold hardy. We also grow about twenty hybrids that every year do well."

With many choices and limited space, it is believed that nearly all growers will follow such a procedure. Here follows the list compiled.

Adolph Audusson & Var.	Guilio Nuccio & Var.	Mrs. R.L. Wheeler
Apollo	Guest of Honor	Nellie McGrath & Var.
Apollo 14	Gun Smoke	Nina Avery
Annie Tee	Haku-Rakuten	Omega
Alta Gavin	High Hat	Pink Champagne
Angel Wings	Iwane	Pink Ice
Betty Sheffield family	Jane Blackwell	Prelude & Var.
Barney Diamond	Jackie Giles	R.L. Wheeler & Var.
Carter's Sunburst	Jean's Unsurpassable	Reg Ragland & Var.
Cheryl Lynn	Judy Matthews	Rena Swick & Var.
China Doll	Kate Thrash	Rosea Superba
Christmas Beauty	Kathryn Snow	Robbie
Coronation	Kitty	Sawada's Dream
Debutante	Kramer's Supreme	Simeon
Drama Girl	Lady Clare	Silver Ruffles
Don Mac	Lady Kay	Spring Sonnett
Dr. Tinsley	Lena Jackson	Sadie Mancill
Dixie Knight	Laura Walker	St. Andre
Dear Jenny	Lotus	Sweetheart
Destiny	Louise Hairston	Thelma Dale
Donation	Louise Onetta	Tiffany
Diddy Mealing	Magnoliaeflora	Tom Herring
Donckelarii	Marie Bracey	Tomorrow family
Emmett Barnes	Mary Beth	Tinsie
Ethyl Davis	Mary Wheeler	Valley Knudson
Eldorado	Man Size	Ville de Nantes
Elegans Supreme	Masterpiece	Wildwood
Elizabeth LeBey	Mathotiana Supreme	William Jackson
Fashionata	Mercury	Yobeki-Dori
Faith	Mollie Moore Davis	Butterfly Wings
Flowerwood	Miss Biloxi	Captain Rawes
Grace Albritton	Miss Charleston	Confucius
Grace Bunton	Miss Universe	Lion Head
Guest Star	Mrs. Baldwin Wood	Mouchang



FOR THE BEGINNER

Regular Feature

It is mid-fall now and there's not much you have to do to or for your camellias until spring. Be sure that they are well mulched and the ones you planted last spring well watered. No other care is required at the moment.

When the weatherman predicts a hard freeze, you will be tempted to try to protect your camellias by covering them with an old sheet, a piece of plastic or something like that. Don't do it! Especially bad is plastic! They must weather the elements without such protective measures. You will be surprised to find that most of them will do just fine unless the hard freeze comes early in the season (November), before they have had time to go dormant. Even then, it is unlikely that the plant will be damaged, just the blooms. Several years ago, I had a 6-foot 'Lady Clare' growing almost on my property line on the south side of my house. In early January it was covered with gorgeous blooms. A hard freeze was predicted and my neighbor, bless him, thinking that he was doing me a favor, threw a piece of polyethylene over the plant. The next day when I discovered it, every bloom on the plant was black! Plants in other locations in the yard, unprotected, came through with no bloom damage or with just a few blooms slightly cold burned. So let them suffer the cold. They're harder than you think.

It's a little late for gib (gibberellic acid) treatment of buds for the fall shows. We will cover this practice

anyway because it adds a lot to the pleasure of camellia growing. In case you don't know what gib is, it is a growth hormone that produces earlier blooms on camellias and often much larger blooms. The monstrous blooms you see in shows are the result of gib use. It is a little hard to come by, but it is not illegal and it can be found. Some garden shops carry it and some camellia nurseries do. If you cannot find it, drop the editor a line and he will direct you to a source. I would suggest waiting until around the first of December to use it on outside plants. The cold may get your gibbed blooms and it may not. The past two winters in much of the camellia growing areas of the East, you would have got beautiful blooms for the spring shows. But weather is unpredictable and you just have to take a chance. It's very easy to use. Most gib bottles come with an applicator. Just pick the most mature buds, break out the *growth* bud which is always located beside the bloom bud, and, with the applicator or a hypodermic needle, place a tiny drop of gib in the little cup that was created when you broke out the growth bud. Within a couple of weeks, you can tell which buds you gibbed, they have grown so much. The length of time between gibbing a bud and picking the bloom is still anybody's guess, despite the tests that have been made to get the answer. If you gib a mature bud around mid-December, a reasonable estimate of the time the flower will

be open would be two months later — and it will probably be big.

Have you noticed the seed pods on some of your camellias? It's not too late to plant some of them if you wish. Space doesn't allow an explanation of how to go about it, but if you cannot find out from some experienced grower, drop a line to the editor and he will be happy to explain the fascinating busi-

ness of growing camellias from seed.

Since you don't have to do much for your camellias this time of year, you can visit shows. This is an excellent place to see different varieties and pick out the ones you want. To select varieties for the yard, make your list from the *outside* blooms — the white cards. A schedule of shows is given below.

SHOW DATES

Columbia, SC — State Fair Grounds	Oct. 24-25, 1980
Greenwood, SC — Cross Creek Mall	Nov. 1, 1980
Washington, DC — National Arboretum	Nov. 1, 1980
Savannah, GA	Nov. 1-2, 1980
Norfolk, VA	Nov. 7-8, 1980
Fort Valley, GA — Masee Lane	Nov. 8-9, 1980
Wilmington, NC — Long Leaf Mall	Nov. 15, 1980
Valdosta, GA — First State Bank & Trust Co.	Nov. 15-16, 1980
Charleston, SC — First Federal Savings & Loan	Nov. 22-23, 1980
Jacksonville, FL — Regency Square	Dec. 6-7, 1980
Tallahassee, FL — Governor's Square Mall	Dec. 6-7, 1980
Albany, GA — Albany Mall	Dec. 6-7, 1980
Panama City, FL — Municipal Auditorium	Jan. 3-4, 1981
Pensacola, FL — Municipal Auditorium	Jan. 10-11, 1981
Augusta, GA — Garden Center, 598 Telfair St.	Jan. 10-11, 1981
Waycross, GA — First National Bank	Jan. 15-16, 1981
Aiken, SC	Jan. 17-18, 1981
Ft. Walton Beach, FL — Santa Rosa Mall	Jan. 24-25, 1981
Charleston, SC — Charlestowne Square Mall	Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1981
Savannah, GA	Feb. 7-8, 1981
Columbia, SC — Columbia Mall	Feb. 14-15, 1981
Atlanta, GA — Lenox Square Mall	Feb. 14-15, 1981
Wilmington, NC — Independence Mall	Feb. 21-22, 1981
Macon, GA — Macon Mall	Feb. 21-22, 1981
Charlotte, NC — Eastland Mall	Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 1981
Fayetteville, NC — Cross Creek Mall	Mar. 7-8, 1981
Greensboro, NC — Four Seasons Mall	Mar. 14-15, 1981
Norfolk, VA	Apr. 4-5, 1981
Washington, DC — National Arboretum	Apr. 11-12, 1981

HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

MRS. SAMUEL F. THORNTON, Norfolk, Virginia

The history of the Virginia Camellia Society would not be complete without recognition of the early enthusiasts who had grown camellias many years before the formation of this society. Beginning in 1939, The Garden Club of Norfolk held annual camellia shows which drew many exhibitors and visitors.

The American Camellia Society was organized in Macon, Georgia, on September 29, 1943. Miss Mary Bell Glennon of Norfolk served as the first state director. It was she who organized a dinner meeting at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club six months later, on March 16, 1946. This meeting was in conjunction with the show held in the gymnasium of the college later to become Old Dominion University. Judges and other visitors represented the national society. Sweepstakes were awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Alan J. Hofheimer, and the award for best flower in the show was given to a seedling, later to be named 'Mrs. Lyman Clarke.'

About sixty guests were invited to the organizational meeting. The Secretary of ACS explained plans being made for future developments, messages were received from a number of distinguished growers, including Dr. H.H. Hume, Judge S.W. Solomon and Mr. Dave Strother. It was unanimously decided to join the ACS, officers were elected, and plans made for future meetings.

Mr. Frederick Huetten had become Superintendent of Public Works in 1939, and his vision of the possibilities for camellias in Virginia had inspired him to accumulate in the Municipal Gardens some 10,000 plants to be used for grafting. Scions were donated by growers from all parts of the camellia

world, for his reputation as an authority on camellias was undoubted. At the second meeting of VCS in December, he was elected to the Board of Directors.

The following spring, The Garden Club of Norfolk was notified that VCS would volunteer to hold a banquet immediately after their 1947 show, with out-of-town judges invited as guests. The offer was accepted with thanks. In November, the Garden Club suggested that the show be conducted jointly, a suggestion gladly accepted. This show was designated as The Ninth Annual Camellia show, sponsored jointly by The Garden Club of Norfolk and The Virginia Camellia Society, in cooperation with The American Camellia Society. Camellia shows continued to be sponsored jointly until 1953, when the Garden Club withdrew.

On March 20-22, 1952, VCS acted as host to the ACS convention. Headquarters were in the Cavalier Hotel at Virginia Beach. An elaborate program was provided, including several bus trips, a cocktail party, entertainment by the Princess Anne Garden Club at Seabrook Farms, the home of the Misses Hill, a luncheon at The Norfolk Yacht and Country Club, a forum with Mr. K. Sawada, Major Peter Barber of the Rothschild Estates in England, and Dr. H.H. Hume as speakers. The show was held at the Norfolk Arena and was climaxed by a banquet in the Panorama Room of the hotel. More than 300 were registered as attending this convention. A "post meeting" was provided for those wishing to make a Sunday tour of The Mariners Museum, Yorktown and its battlefields, some of the most important buildings in Williamsburg, with a luncheon at the Williamsburg Inn, and return over the Colonial Parkway. The

cost of this guided tour was \$7.50 per person.

Some items of interest during these formative years may well be added here.

1950 — Many blooms were exhibited at the fall meeting.

1951 — Mr. Pinner of Suffolk, president, announced that he had added 50 new members during his term of office. The schedule for the 12th annual show lists 8 groups: Single, Semi-Double, Peony Form, Rose Form, Formal Double. Groups 6 and 7 were collections and 8 was for seedlings. No provision was made to separate those grown under glass.

1953 — The Nomenclature Book was introduced as a guide in classification. The show schedule indicated that blooms grown under glass were judged as a separate class, but allowed no points. The Honor Court was established.

1955 — Contributions of \$1,000 to the Botanical Gardens for a greenhouse, and one of \$200 to the Federation of Garden Clubs building fund were made.

1956 — The first official fall show was held in conjunction with the meeting.

1957 — An exhibit of blooms grown under glass was held in January. The Society was incorporated. An invitation

issued to ACS to hold the next convention in Norfolk.

1959 — The 14th Annual Meeting of ACS was held in Norfolk, March 19-21. The National Society was welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Alison J. Parsons, Chairmen. Headquarters were the Monticello Hotel. Registration fee of \$20 entitled each registrant to one ticket for each event. Buses were provided for visits to Coleman Nursery, luncheon at the Planters' Club in Suffolk, tours of the gardens of Dr. Habel and Mr. Pinner in Suffolk, a reception in the ballroom of the Monticello Hotel, tours of six gardens in Norfolk, a barbecue at the Municipal Gardens, a trip to the Naval Base, a cocktail party and banquet at the hotel, and, of course, a visit to the 20th Annual VCS Show at The Arena. The Chairmen later reported that the meeting was a huge success, both financially and in the appreciation of all visitors.

The succeeding years have shown marked increase in interest in blooms grown under glass, active promotion of "gibbing," sale of fine plants secured by members through layering of prize specimens, and cooperation with the Men's Garden Club in their fall shows. Two members of VCS have served as president of ACS: Mr. Alison J. Parsons, 1967-68, and Dr. J.N. Habel, 1968-69.

Continued on page 31.

A CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING IS . . .



. . . NO PLACE FOR A DIET!

Louise Mayo and Donna Shepherd at the Spring meeting of South Carolina Camellia Society in Columbia.

THE ROLE OF SANITATION IN THE CONTROL OF CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT CAUSED BY THE FUNGUS *SCLEROTINIA CAMELLIAE* HARA

LUTHER W. BAXTER, JR. and SUSAN G. FAGAN*

Camellia flower blight is caused by the fungus, *Sclerotinia camelliae* Hara. The name "Hara" indicates the name of the Japanese scientist who first described and named this fungus back in 1919 in Japan. This fungus attacks and invades only the flowers of the camellia. It does not attack any other parts of the camellia plant nor any part of any other known plant. As the diseased camellia flower dies and decays, the fungus forms in the base of the flower a hard black body called a sclerotium. This sclerotium (plural — sclerotia) normally is formed in the base of an intact flower, but sometimes small sclerotia may be formed in the base of single petals which result when the camellia flower shatters. These sclerotia, which may be up to $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length or diameter, remain in the soil from one season to the next. In mid-to late winter or early spring of the following year, they grow and produce on the ground small tan saucer-shaped structures called apothecia. Within these apothecia, which range in size from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, are produced millions of very tiny spores. These spores are blown by air currents from the ground up onto the flowers, where they germinate and infect the flowers, completing the life cycle of the fungus. There is no spread of the fungus from a diseased to a healthy flower, such as occurs in azalea petal blight and peach brown rot, both of which are caused by closely related fungi.

Sanitation, as used in the context of this paper, refers to the science and practice of effecting healthful and hygienic conditions, or to the study and use of hygienic measures such as drainage, ventilation, the use of a pure water supply, etc. (Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language. David B. Guralnik, Ed. The World Publishing Company, New York and Cleveland, 1962 pp.)

The sanitation practice of picking up and destroying old camellia flowers, when camellia flower blight is a problem, is a sound horticultural practice since it eliminates the overwintering stage of the fungus and thus cuts its life cycle. The best time to pick up the spent flowers is before they dry out and shatter excessively, which might allow any sclerotia in the base of diseased flowers to drop out onto the ground. This practice of picking up spent flowers is not too difficult to accomplish in a greenhouse or even in a garden if one does not have more than approximately 50 camellia plants. The lower branches of the camellia plants in the garden should be pruned up from the ground so that the spent flowers are more easily seen and picked up. With large camellia plants (8 to 10 feet in height), it is often difficult to recover all of the flowers under the plants. One serious problem with larger plants is that some of the flowers may lodge in the branches where they are not easily seen and often the fungus will develop sclerotia in the flowers lodged in the branches. These sclerotia would eventually fall to the ground and serve as a source of spores to infect the next year's flowers.

There are several problems related to the collection and destruction of flo-

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wers that tend to reduce the effectiveness of the practice. One inherent difficulty is that regardless of how good a job you do, if neighbors have camellias with flower blight, then the spores can be blown into your garden in a viable state from your neighbors' gardens from a distance of several hundred yards, and perhaps, under optimum conditions, as far as a mile. In other words, the control of camellia flower blight by sanitation must be a community project. The fungus produces only spores in apothecia on the ground, and there is no flower to flower spread of the fungus.

Another problem with a sanitation program for the control of camellia flower blight is that a few sclerotia, which may be missed, can produce literally millions of spores which can contaminate an entire community. Thus, a very strict community sanitation program is required for the control of this camellia flower disease.

The sclerotia can survive in or on the

soil for several years, reportedly up to at least four years. Therefore, if one does a perfect job in picking up and destroying all of the spent camellia blossoms in your garden each year, and your neighbors also do a perfect job in picking up and destroying all camellia flowers each year, the fungus can still persist as old sclerotia for several years without the addition of new sclerotia to the soil. These old sclerotia can provide the spores to get the disease started for several years.

Intact flowers are easily seen and may be picked up, but this fungus can also produce sclerotia on single petals that result when flowers shatter and fall to the ground as individual petals. These single petals are difficult to find and pick up. Where only a few plants are involved, the mulch under the plants may be removed and replaced after the blooming season is over. In some cases, gardeners may prefer to avoid the use of cultivars that shatter badly, such as Alba Plena and

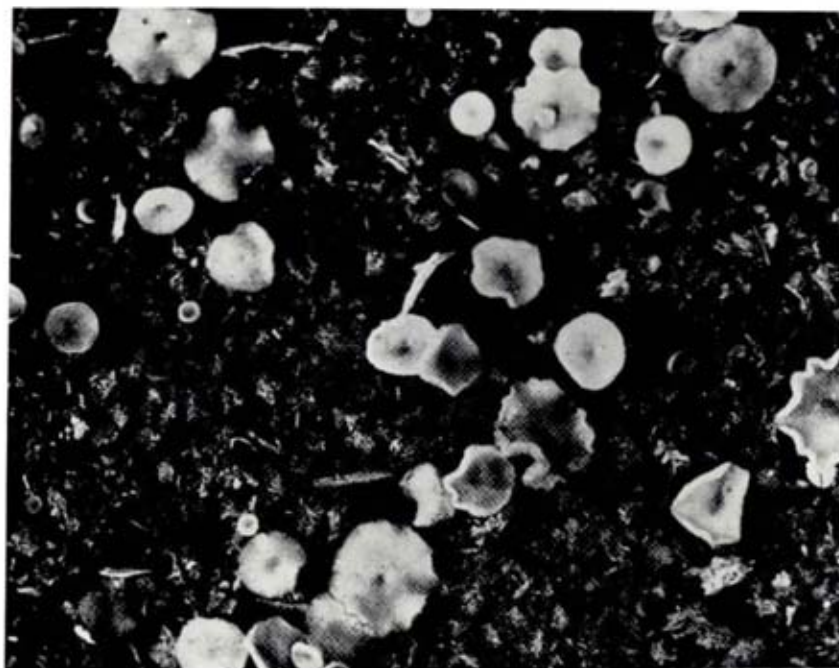


Figure 1. Apothecia of the Camellia flower blight organism, *Sclerotinia camelliae* Hara.

Sawada's Dream.

Spotting of flowers of certain camellia cultivars, such as Betty Sheffield, should not be confused with flower blight. Generally, the distribution pattern of flower blight will be at random and only some of the flowers on a camellia plant will be affected. Rarely will all of them on the same plant be affected. Also, open flowers on other plants nearby will be affected. The spotting of flowers of camellias, such as Betty Sheffield and all of her sports may occur on many of the flowers on a given plant, while flowers on adjacent plants of other cultivars may all be without blemishes. However, with flower blight this will not be true because flowers of all camellia cultivars thus far tested are susceptible to infection by *S. camelliae*. Also, all camellia cultivars thus far tested not only may be affected by flower blight, but all of them support sclerotial development.

Since the fungus is active only during the winter and early spring months, de-

pending on location, fall camellia flowers, either those resulting from the use of gibberellic acid treatment or those that bloom naturally in the fall, are free of this disease. *Camellia japonica* cultivars, such as Daikagura and Emmett Barnes, which bloom naturally in the fall, escape infection by the flower blight organism. *Camellia sasanqua* cultivars also bloom during the fall months and thus escape infection by this organism since it is inactive during the fall. In regard to the above phrase, "depending on the location," the earliest infection of camellia flowers in Charleston, South Carolina may occur during late December, while the earliest infection at Clemson, S.C. usually occurs during early March. Usually, however, the fungus is active during the peak flowering period of most *Camellia japonica* cultivars.

As stated earlier, one should be able to control camellia flower blight in greenhouses by picking up and destroying all the spent flowers each and every

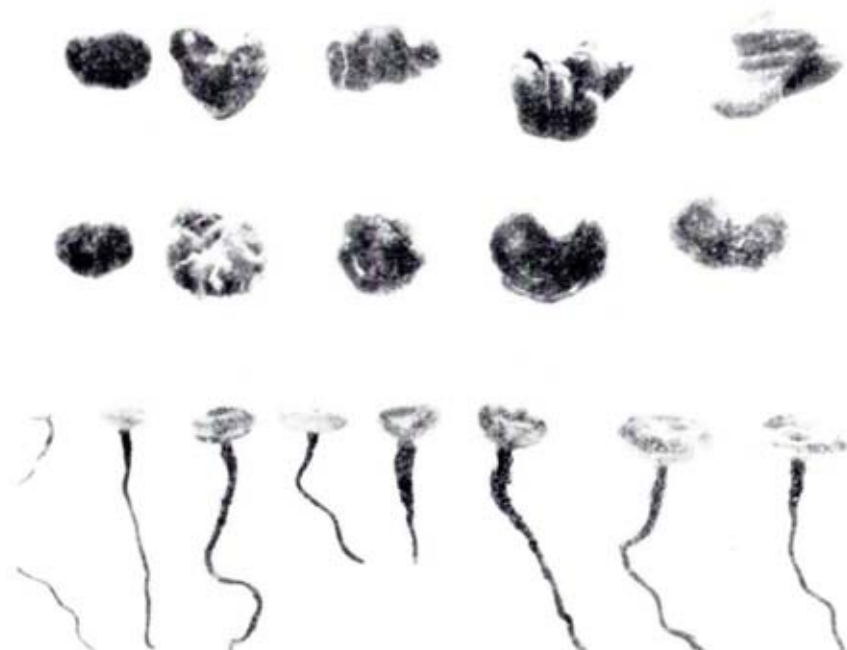


Figure 2. Sclerotia at the top which were formed at the base of diseased flowers; apothecia removed from the ground; they were attached to the sclerotia but broke off.



Figure 3. Close-up enlargement of 6 apothecia arising from one sclerotium.



Figure 4. Left, 3 white diseased flowers; right, red diseased flower. If suitable environmental conditions are maintained, sclerotia will form at the base of these flowers (Fig. 2, upper part).

year. Another problem, however, can arise even with this type of sanitation. For instance, if an exhaust fan is used for cooling the greenhouse during the spring when the fungus is active, spores of *S. camelliae* can be pulled into the greenhouse and may infect open camellia flowers therein. Obviously, this occurs only if there are infected camellias within approximately one-half mile of your greenhouse. Camellias are the only known hosts for *S. camelliae* and, if there are no camellia plants growing near your camellias, or if they are not infected, indicating that the fungus is not present in the area outside the greenhouse, then there will be no problem.

One other problem associated with picking up and destroying infected camellia flowers is that children and

dogs can pick them up and carry them to areas other than the immediate vicinity of the camellia plants. Occasionally, run-off water may also carry spent camellia flowers away from camellia plants. It is then more difficult to locate and destroy all of the infected camellia flowers.

In spite of these shortcomings, sanitation still represents the best control procedure to alleviate camellia flower blight if the fungus has already become established. If it has not become established, the best control measure is to keep it out. Several other methods of control are being sought, but so far they are used only in a supporting role with sanitation. These include both chemical and non-chemical means.

The camellia man went into great detail to describe air layering of camellias to the lady who wanted to know how to do it. He told her about removing the ring of bark, scraping to remove all callus, applying the ball of moist peat in the foil, and tying the foil-wrapped ball in place. Though he continued, she ceased to listen at this point. He told her to wait till late Fall when the ball of peat would be full of roots, then remove it and pot it up. He passed her house a couple of weeks later and saw a large number of dead camellias in pots under a dogwood tree. He asked the lady about them and she said, "Oh, they're my air layers. I did it exactly like you told me and they all died as soon as I cut them off."

CAMELLIA JAPONICAS

CAMELLIA SASANQUAS

LAUREL LAKE GARDENS AND NURSERY, INC.

P.O. Drawer 9
Salemberg, N.C. 28385
Phone 919-525-5155

22 miles east of Fayetteville, N.C., 10 miles west of Clinton, N.C.
One mile east of Salemberg on Laurel Lake Road.

A Virginian Visits China

MRS. CHARLES F. URQUHART, JR., Courtland, Virginia

In the early 1950's, the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, through the generosity of Mrs. Charles R. Grandy, received a unit of 15 varieties of the Yunnan Reticulatas from China. The late Frederic Heutte, in one of his many labors of love with plants, was able to exhibit several of the varieties in the 1954 Norfolk Camellia Show, where these beautiful curiosities from a far-off land caught my eye.

I never expected to visit the home of this species, but in March of this year, I was delighted to join 13 other ACS members for a tour of the Peoples Republic of China, with an ultimate destination of Yunnan Province.

Our tour took us to Peking, Shanghai and Kunming, and throughout the PRC, we found the Chinese people to be friendly, courteous, helpful, and above all else, curious about Americans. We found ourselves continually surrounded by crowds of silently observing, but otherwise very respectful people. It was obvious to us that many of the Chinese, especially the young, had never seen foreigners and our encounters with each other proved to be mutually educational. Our guides talked openly with us and, for the most part, answered our many questions honestly and factually, although sometimes with a generous hint of political doctrines.

Prior to our trip, Mr. Milton Brown had, through correspondence, opened a great many doors for our group and, upon our arrival at the Yunnan Botanical Institute at Kunming, we found cups of hot green tea and warm welcomes to begin a most rewarding day.

Important work on the nomenclature of the Reticulata is going on at the Yunnan Institute, in the heart of the Reticulata's natural habitat. We saw some of the very excellent color illustrations which will appear in a new book on the Yunnan Reticulatas, soon to be published in English. This book will prove to be of great value in this country in identifying varieties and correcting Reticulata names.

More importantly, we also learned of and saw a number of camellia species unavailable outside of the PRC. ACS members can look forward to seeing photographs of these species at future meetings.

We saw two grafts of *Camellia chrysantha*, neither of which had yet bloomed, but both appeared quite healthy. This species, in addition to introducing the long sought-after yellow color in camellias, should prove even more valuable to our hybridizers, in that it seems to do well in sub-tropical areas similar to the warmer portions of Florida.

The Yunnan Institute staff expressed great interest in exchanging varieties and species with us and some exciting new material has already been sent to this country by our new camellia friends in the Peoples Republic of China. We believe that more will follow and, as it does and our knowledge of the camellias that we all love continues to expand, I shall be able to happily recall our trip to China in 1980, with the belief that it has helped two entirely different peoples, on opposite sides of the world, but with at least one common interest, to share that interest for the common good of all.

A trusting friend is one who will take you into his greenhouse, give you a knife and a plastic bag, and tell you, "Look, I've got to go in and take a shower, You cut whatever scions you want."

IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

JAMES H. McCOY, Fayetteville, N.C.

Are you having trouble growing retics? How about the very die-back prone varieties such as 'Ming Temple,' the granthamiana hybrids, 'Overture,' etc.? Joe Austin, who experiments a lot, is practicing a method of growing these mavericks that seems to be working like a charm. He approach-grafts them in the top of vigorous healthy japonicas. The abundance of lush japonica foliage, in some way protects them from die-back and they become as docile, clean and die-back free as the hardiest japonica. Of course, Joe also uses Benlate and Captan liberally and this probably helps also.

It will soon be grafting time again, so let me describe another method of grafting which is rarely practiced here but gaining some converts in Australia, and perhaps other places. It is the saddle graft. It does not strike me as a method that will replace cleft grafting in general practice, but it may have its place in the propagation of camellias. Saddle grafting is done as follows: cut off the stock as you would for a cleft graft. Then trim it into a wedge shape. Split the scion and force it down over this wedge. Tape it in place with grafting tape or black electricians' tape. Treat it from here on as you would a cleft graft. Mr. Ern Kettle, of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society, reports 100 percent takes on a group of 13 saddle grafts the first time he tried it. He says that the callusing is much quicker on saddle grafts and the healing so complete that the graft junction is almost invisible three and a half months after grafting.

Many greenhouse growers of camellias are having trouble with tree roots growing up in their greenhouses and competing with the camellias for water. You probably are. Marshall Rhyne poured concrete on the floor of one of his

greenhouses before he brought in the soil. He says that the roots still get in. Dr. Olin Owen, I have been told, goes to a lot of trouble cutting down into the soil around the plants with a big knife in an attempt to eliminate unwanted tree roots. Clyde Dorrity has some of his favorite plants in big containers (half of a 30-gallon drum). The containers are buried in the ground, but the bottoms of the containers are separated from the bottom of the holes by several inches by placing a brick in the hole before he sets the container in it — another attempt to escape the invading roots. If you know of any other way to solve this problem, let me know and I'll pass it on.

Most gardeners know that all soil, but especially soil from forests, contains vast amounts of microbes and fungi. Many of these organisms are beneficial to plant life. Most container growers of camellias in the East are eliminating the benefits that could be derived from using woods mold or woods soil in their soil mix. They have gone to a mix composed of sand and sawdust or sand and pine bark. One reason being that by doing so, they are reducing the danger from the pathogens (disease-producing organisms) that also exist in woods soil. Wouldn't it be great if we could just add these beneficial microbes and fungi to our soil mix like we do fertilizer! It may be that we will be able to do so before long. There is at least one company which is marketing a product consisting of dormant strains of beneficial microorganisms. Added to the soil, it is supposed to accelerate plant growth, and reduce amount of fertilizer needed. It also protects the roots from invasion by injurious organisms. The manufacturer claims that it is approved for sale and use in 37 of the 50 states. But as of January 1, 1980, it had not been approved for use in Georgia, South Carolina,

North Carolina or Virginia. We will probably have more information on this product later.

Camellias planted in the ground, especially outside the greenhouse, need special care for at least one full growing season. The special care is watering. A squirt and a promise will not do. The roots of a newly-planted camellia will probably be in the first 12 inches of soil. So you will need to wet the soil to a depth of 12 inches. The amount of water required to do this will vary with the type of soil. Loamy soil will require about twice as much water as will sandy soil. Sandy soil will also accept water faster than loamy soil. But even under the best of circumstances (sandy soil, well mulched), it would take one and one-half hours or longer to wet the soil to a depth of 12 inches. Who has the time to stand over a camellia plant with the hose going for one and one-half hours! The answer would seem to be to take a piece of flexible sheet metal or plastic and construct a waterproof ring or dam around the plant. Fill this area with water to a depth of about 2 inches. One good soaking like this per week should keep your camellia contented.

Perhaps you have noted that many, if not most, of the really, good, different, camellia cultivars that have hit the market and show tables in recent years have been sports or mutants. To name a few: 'Tomorrow Park Hill,' 'Margaret Davis,' 'Feathery Touch,' 'Diddy's Pink Organdie,' 'Chow's Han Ling,' 'Betty Sheffield Supreme,' 'Mathotiana Supreme,' and 'Elegans Splendor.' Also worth noting, one of the all-time great camellias, 'Ville de Nantes,' is a sport. Now you can look for another that may take its place among the "great

sports." It is a sport of 'Ella Ward Parsons' that appeared in Joe Austin's greenhouse this year. It hits you with an impact like the impact that 'Feathery Touch' hit all who saw it in Neal Rogers' greenhouse during the ACS convention in Mobile in 1973. Remember? It's about the same size and form as 'Ella Ward Parsons,' but much fuller and with the color concentrated on outer petals. Joe plans to name it 'Preacher's Ella.'

Few would consider greenhouse growing of camellias to be a dangerous hobby. It surely isn't, compared to sky diving, rattlesnake handling and others, but there is some danger, especially if you're not careful. Harry Smith of Greensboro nearly killed himself a few years ago when the top of a pressure sprayer he was using flew off and hit him in the face. Dr. Newton Smith almost severed a finger with a sharp knife while pruning his camellias. It's a wonder we haven't heard of someone poisoning himself with one of the hazardous chemicals we use to fight insects. I recently bought a concentrated spray for insects and after reading the label, decided not to use it. Even the manufacturer recommended that you cover every inch of your body, use a gas mask and throw away the clothes you were wearing if you use it. OK, so I'm exaggerating slightly! The oddest greenhouse accident I have heard about concerns the late Mr. Louis Knock. Mary found him stretched out cold on the floor of his greenhouse. She imagined all kinds of terrible things. As it turned out, he had been attacked by a cardinal which had built a nest in his greenhouse and he had come closer to it than the bird would permit.

God Almighty first planted a garden; and indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures; it is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man, without which buildings and palaces are but gross handyworks. . . ."

Sir Francis Bacon

TENTATIVE PROGRAM ACS ANNUAL MEETING November 19-23, 1980

Wednesday, November 19, 1980

- 1:00-5:00 p.m. Registration (Lobby, Holiday Inn Downtown).
COLD STORAGE FURNISHED FOR ALL OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS.
- 1:00-5:00 p.m. Hospitality Room.
- 6:00-8:30 p.m. Coastal Carolina Culinary Cuisine (Beaufort Stew).
VERY casual dress.

Thursday, November 20, 1980

- 9:00-5:00 p.m. Registration (Lobby, Holiday Inn Downtown).
- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Hospitality Room (Coffee & Pastries).
- 9:00-2:00 p.m. Tour of Charleston: homes, Drayton Hall, and Magnolia Gardens. Picnic lunch at Magnolia Gardens with cash bar.
- 3:00 p.m. Governing Board and Board of Trustees Meetings.
- 5:00-6:30 p.m. Hospitality Room.
Dinner on your own.

Friday, November 21, 1980

- 9:00-5:00 p.m. Registration (Lobby, Holiday Inn Downtown).
- 8:00-9:30 a.m. Hospitality Room (Coffee & Pastries).
- 9:30 a.m. Dr. Luther Baxter - Update on Dieback.
- 10:15 a.m. Maj. Gen. Harold Bauer - Layering/Rooting Technique.
- 11:00 a.m. Dr. W.L. Ackerman - Yellow Camellia Seeds.
- 12 noon Welcome luncheon (Hotel). Address by Charleston Mayor Mr. Joseph P. Riley and President Coastal Carolina Camellia Society, Dr. James D. Dickson.
- 2:00 p.m. Dr. Herbert Racoff - Potpourri.
- 2:30 p.m. Mr. James McCoy - Trials and Tribulations of an editor.
- 3:15 p.m. Mr. Marion Edwards - Show Bloom Photography.
- 3:45 p.m. Mr. Milton Brown - Report on Trip to China.
- 5:00-6:30 p.m. Hospitality Room.
- 7:00-10:00 p.m. Carolina Moon (Dinner under the stars at the home of Sunny and Sally Hanckel). VERY casual dress.

Saturday, November 22, 1980

- 9:00-11:00 a.m. Registration (Lobby, Holiday Inn Downtown).
- 8:00-11:00 a.m. Enter Blooms in Show, First Federal Savings & Loan Association, 34 Broad St., Charleston, S.C. Morning Hospitality Room, First Federal Savings & Loan Assn.
- 10:30 a.m. Hospitality Luncheon - Buffet, First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. for Judges & Exhibitors.
- 3:00 p.m. Show opens.
- 5:00-6:30 p.m. Hospitality Room, Hotel
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. Happy Hour, Cash bar available.
- 8:00 p.m. Banquet, Charleston Room, Holiday Inn Downtown.

Sunday, November 23, 1980

- 8:00-9:30 a.m. Hospitality Room (Coffee & Pastries).
- 12 noon Show opens.

Camellia Talk in Congress

Ed. Note: The following are excerpts from the Congressional Record for Thursday, May 8, 1980. As you can see, we have a friend in Congress who is trying to have a camellia commemorative postage stamp issued. He is the Hon. Jack Brinkley, Representative from Georgia.

Mr. Brinkley: Mr. Speaker, commemorative postage stamps offer us a unique opportunity to salute persons, events, or natural treasures which are of special significance to American life.

The camellia is particularly representative of America. With its origin in the Far East; its distribution throughout the temperate worlds; its unusual bloom season throughout fall, winter, and spring; and its multiplicity of forms, color, texture, and size, the camellia is a fitting parallel to the multiple origins, phyletic characteristics, and forms of the melting pot which is our America.

To honor this aristocrat of flowers, I have urged the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative camellia stamp. What year could be more appropriate for approving this singular recognition than 1980 — "The Year of the Camellia"?

Mr. Milton H. Brown, executive secretary of the American Camellia Society, which is headquartered in Fort Valley, Ga., is a true scholar, whose botanical expertise and dedicated leadership are of vital importance in the camellia commemorative stamp crusade. Equally invaluable have been the splendid contributions of the society's Director-at-Large, Dr. Dan Nathan, who has donated a yeoman's share of time and energy to our efforts.



Camellias have played a role in White House decorations beginning with President Andrew Jackson. President Franklin Pierce, a Yankee from New Hampshire, also used camellias at his State Dinners; but he was probably encouraged by Mrs. Clement Clay of Alabama when she wrote, "For an entire season, the japonica (as camellias were known by the Southerners) was the only flower seen at the houses of the fashionable or mixing in the toilettes of the belles." Camellias played a role at different times and on July 25, 1957, blooming camellia plants graced both sides of the reviewing stands for the inaugural parade of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and a beautiful plant of that variety was planted on the White House lawn in 1958. President and Mrs. Nixon were fond lovers of camellias and had them from time to time. The American Camellia Society sent camellias for the Thanksgiving decorations of the White House in 1976 — the Bicentennial Year. Again, on Inauguration Day, January 20, 1977, camellias played a key role in the decorations of the White House. The most recent lavish display of camellias at the White House was at the historic State Dinner that President Carter had for Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping of the People's Republic of China.

It is fitting that we recognize not only the beauty of the camellia, not only the usefulness of the *Camellia sinensis* species which provides us tea, not only for the gracious decorations, but also as a plant growing in the lowliest of the gardens to the lavish estates. The camellia is not a wealthy man's plant as it is cheaper than many other specialized plant genus. The camellia is not a difficult plant to grow as many believe. Yes, it is fitting that we take this time to acknowledge 1980 as The Year of The Camellia.

EAST MEETS WEST VIA CAMELLIA FRIENDS

MILTON H. BROWN

A group of fourteen Americans, headed by the ACS Executive Secretary, visited The People's Republic of China in early March, 1980 "on their way" to the ICS Congress in Kyoto, Japan.

The visit to China included stopovers in Shanghai, Kunming and Beijing. In Shanghai I had a most rare opportunity to spend an evening with a Chinese family of friends, through two years of correspondence, in the home of my friend and with no "ever-present guide from Beijing" to monitor the visit. It was most fascinating to talk camellias with such fine people who have been connected with camellias for more than half a century. We had a pleasant half day with the staff of the Shanghai Botanical Gardens, now beginning to really take off with camellias and a top locale of Pen jing — bonsais.

After much cajoling, we were able to get to visit — all too briefly because of some snafu by our guide — the Botanical Institute in Beijing, where two valuable publications were donated to the ACS Library.

The "frosting on the cake" was, of course, the visit to the Kunming Botanical Institute. Dr. Wu, the Director, was out of town on business. However, we could not have been more cordially treated than we were by Dr. and Mme. Chang Ao-lo and the staff of this growing institute. We saw a "forest" of what must have been well over one thousand (forty-year or more old) *Camellia reticulatas*, including many not yet commercially available in America. Of the 105 named cultivars, more than one-half of them still are growing some distance from Kunming — but still in Yunnan Province. On temple grounds in Yunnan



Dr. Chang Ao-lo, Vice Director of the Kunming Botanical Institute with Mme. Chang, the top expert on camellias, and "Brownie" in front of the Institute in Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China. Dr. Chang is a Life Member of ACS; Mme. Chang is proudly wearing an ACS pin presented to her by the ACS Executive Secretary. (Photo by Louis Squyres.)

Province we saw *C. reticulata* trees dating from the Ming Dynasty, over 500 years ago. Fascinating to see large blooms on these very tall trees!

In January, Dr. Chang, with whom I had been in contact for more than a year, sent seeds of the yellow species *C. chrysantha* to two recipients in this country. Some eight plants are growing along quite well in the U.S. and are beginning to branch out. It is from pollen of this species that we can look down the road to peach, apricot and orange colors in camellias. After all, it was not until after a yellow rose came along that we now have such varieties as 'Peace' and the various peach, apricot and orange-colored roses that are so popular. Because the native habitat of this species, and others of the *Section Arhecamellia* which are described as having yellow or sulphur-colored camellias, is in the tropical or sub-tropical areas we might well expect our hybridizers to come up with more heat-resis-

tant camellias and thus extend the belt of camellia growing. Perhaps we will see them bloom along the beautiful Caribbean or Mediterranean basins! A whole new vista of camellias has now been opened to us through an exchange between the camellia experts of the East and the West — thanks much, of course, to personal visits and continued support from both of our countries — The United States of America and The People's Republic of China — and our camellia friends in Japan, Australia and elsewhere in the world.

We can't seem to achieve one world of politics, but can certainly have *one world of camellias* — *The Camellia World* — beginning actively in this, the ACS's 1980 — *The Year of the Camellia!*

(For articles and detailed studies on camellias in Yunnan we refer you to the ACS publications, "The Camellia Journal," for May, August and November 1980 and *The American Camellia Yearbook* — 1980 to be published in December 1980.)

NEW ONES FOR '81

JOE AUSTIN, Four Oaks, N.C.

Most of the avid greenhouse growers I know want the new ones. Here is a list of some you will want. Some will go to the head table in the years ahead. Some you will cut down and graft on in a year or two. I hope you the best of luck in your search. This is part of the fun.

'Neisha Gamlin'

'Roberts Jewel'

'Janet Smith'

'Happy Days'

'Preacher's Ella'

'Woodford Harrison'

'Ada Sebire'

'Our Kerry'

'Dr. Harry Moore'

'Jane Murtagh'

'Eugene Stockman'

'Redwood City'

'Dick Goodson'

'Glowing Embers'

'Park Hill Blush'

'Homeyer No. 155'

'Blissful Dawn'

'Vi Stone'

'Hulyn Smith'

'Cucamonga'

'Mary Stringfellow'

'EK-2'

'James McCoy'

'Wilmer Stewart'

'Alabama Tide'

CAMELLIAS REGISTERED BY VIRGINIANS

JOHN K. WALSH, Virginia Beach, Va.

The subject of creating a garden for camellias registered by Virginians had been bandied back and forth at various meetings of the board of directors of the Virginia Camellia Society until August 22, 1978, when a committee was appointed to search out a location for a garden. Charlie Mason and John Walsh contacted "Bob" Matthews, superintendent of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, who cheerfully took up with the idea and offered two or three locations in the Norfolk Botanical Gardens for Virginia introductions.

An area near the entrance road, fronted by an expanse of green grass and backed by many good-sized camellias was chosen and "Bob" promptly began planting the first twelve cultivars which were furnished by members of the V.C.S. and delivered to the gardens. Twenty-four varieties registered by Virginians were found in the official nomenclature book of ACS by Edith Mason and Lee Myers.

Dr. J.M. Hable (pron. "Hobble") of Suffolk, Va., is our most productive member in registering varieties of Japonicas, and has registered the following: 'Allie Blue' - 1964, 'Allie Habel' - 1965, 'Cecil Rogers' - 1965, 'Ella Ward Parsons' - 1968, and 'Little Ginger' - 1977. 'Allie Habel' is shell pink edged deeper pink and is peony form of medium to large size. Dr. Hable does not do any cross-pollinating, delegating that chore to the bees. "If you have good flowers, there is a better chance of getting a good seedling," says "Tubby," the doctor. His 'Allie Habel' came from one of four seeds from 'Lotus.' The remaining seeds producing one large white single, one large pink single and one "also ran." He stated that the cross might have been with 'Mrs. Lyman Clarke' growing nearby.

Dr. Hable also has other good seedlings among which are 'Flip,' named for Charlie Mason, 'Shorty,' named for

Edith Mason, 'Anne Clayton,' which was in our spring show and is a "sweet pea" of a flower, white shaded to pink. 'Heather Green,' a large white, will probably be registered by one of Tubby's children this fall. He has fifteen or twenty other good ones, one of which is the size of a quarter and resembles somewhat a 'Pink Perfection.'

'Betty Grandy' - 1950 and 'Charles R. Grandy' - 1949 were grown and registered by Mrs. C.R. Grandy of Norfolk; however, no further information on the flowers seems to be available.

'Flora Ellen' - 1952 is a large, white, semi-double, medium, vigorous, open, pendulous growth variety. A.J. "Preacher" Parsons of Norfolk nursed this chance seedling along, eventually being rewarded with a fine flower. He discovered it growing between a 'Magnoliaeflora' and an 'Imura,' hence there is a fair possibility that it is a cross of the two, although there were other cultivars in the vicinity. It was easy to register as it was unlike any other registered flower at that time. "Preacher" named it after his wife and mother.

'Frances Sessions Hicks' - 1962 was registered by R.D. Hicks, who has moved from Troutville, Va., to Ozark, Ala., and could not be reached for comment.

Three introductions were made by J.R. Moore of Hampton, Va.: 'Forest Fire' - 1967, 'Great Day' - 1967, and 'Guest Star' - 1974, the last being a medium, formal double, pink shading to white. Mr. Moore did not register this seedling because of the five dollar fee required. He gave just one scion to "Preacher" Parson, the flower turning out to be very beautiful. Following Mr. Moore's demise, "Preacher," with Mrs. Moore's consent, registered 'Guest Star.' It can be found in many of the local gardens.

'Fritz Taylor,' registered in 1955 by Mrs. A.M. Nickerson of Norfolk, has a

creamy white center, graduating to deep pink on the outer petals. It has the form of 'Pink Perfection,' blooming in April, and Mrs. Nickerson still has the original plant. Although it was never propagated, Fred Heutte did raise a plant in the Botanical Gardens. It was named after her now-deceased first husband.

'Grace Bunton' and 'Peter Pan' are introductions by "Charlie" Hays, Sr. He had been growing 4,000 to 5,000 camellias each year in Virginia Beach and in 1950 these two seedlings bloomed. Charlie thinks they were possibly of the same parentage. In an effort to improve on 'Grace Bunton,' he planted 50 or 60 of its seed in a separate bed and watched for developments. It was fascinating to him to see the color of the offspring to be consistently similar, but that the flower forms varied widely. 'Cavalier's Lady' appeared among Charlie's sasanqua seedlings, and upon showing it to "Preacher" Parsons, the latter gentleman registered it. It is a large lavender pink which starts out as a rose form and ends as a semi-double. His 'Jean Hayes' was the outstanding seedling two years in a row and although nominated for the Illges medal, it did not win the award. Charlie is an old

VCS member, a pal of our recently deceased Fred Heutte, and last September retired to a lovely place on Ginguite Bay, ¼ mile from Currituck Sound, where he brought 300 of his best plants from Virginia Beach.

W.G. Brinson of Norfolk registered 'Martha Brinson' in 1958. No further information on the originator of the flower could be found.

Mrs. J.H. Gary of Norfolk registered 'Mary Lee' in 1952, a large white, semi-double flower, a seedling belonging to Mrs. Gary's sister for whom it was named. Mr. Dave Strother, who was here for a show in which it was entered, thought it perfectly beautiful, praising its unusually good foliage and remarking that it should be registered. He took cuttings of it, propagated it, and Mrs. Gary gave him the money to have it registered, which he did.

An interesting side-light which emerged in the conversation with Mrs. Gary was that she is a charter member of the Old Dominion Horticulture Society which was comprised of nine or ten members originally and which later became the Norfolk Botanical Society. They had saved up \$5,000 and then approached the other Norfolk Garden Clubs with the idea of beginning a city

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botanical garden. The effort proved fruitless, so they approached Mayor Duckworth and asked for a part of the city park. The good mayor looked favorably on the idea and further encouraged them by suggesting that they go to the Azalea Gardens and take some of that property which was more desirable, rather than a part of the city park, and this they proceeded to do. Thomas R. Thompson, a former city manager of Norfolk, had already established the Azalea Gardens with Mr. Fred Heutte as manager of the project. Fred enthusiastically endorsed the idea of The Old Dominion Horticulture Society and together they developed the Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

Mrs. F.C. Lewis of Norfolk gave the following account concerning 'Merium Lewis' and Meriam Lewis, Var.' They were found among a large number of seedlings which had been given to Mr. Lewis by an amateur camellia enthusiast, Mr. Harry Miller. Mr. Lewis had nursed these into blooming and was fortunate enough to have nature give him a good pink. Grafting it onto a variegated stock he obtained the variegated form and then named them after his wife. Mr. Lewis passed away in September of 1979, after which the nursery was closed.

'Alba Compacta' - early 1900's,
'Hold de Larche' - 1948 and 'Maury

Pink' - 1953 are introductions by the Greenbrier Nursery, now out of business, but their extensive location along Highway 64 is obvious from the rows of huge crepe myrtles, dogwoods, magnolia soulangeanas, and redbud trees which still thrive and blossom in that fertile soil.

'Mrs. Lyman Clarke' - 1949 was registered by Mrs. Lyman Clarke, still in Norfolk and formerly a very active member of the V.C.S. She gave the original plant, according to Mrs. Heutte, to Fred Heutte and it now stands "like a grand old dame" in the Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

'Sasu' was introduced by Mr. E.F. Heard of Hampton, Va., in 1957. 'Our Linda,' a beautiful new Sasanqua, was first shown in 1978 and was registered by Adm. L.O. Wood (Ret.) and his wife Muriel. It was written up in the 1980 winter edition of *Carolina Camellias*.

Of the cultivars named, the collection lacks 'Betty Grandy,' 'Charles R. Grandy,' 'Frances Session Hicks,' 'Forest Fire,' 'Fritz Taylor,' 'Mary Lee,' and 'Sasu.' The Virginia Camellia Society would appreciate information as to where it could obtain the missing varieties, or better still, receive a donation to the collection in the form of an air layer, scion, or small plant of any of them.

FLASH

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society is now an existing, viable society! It was organized at Myrtle Beach, September 14, 1980. There were 140 who joined at the organizational meeting. Officers are as follows: president, Hulyn Smith; 1st vice-president, Oliver Mizzell; 2nd vice-president, Annabelle Fetterman; secretary-treasurer, J.L. McClintock; assistant secretary-treasurer, James McCoy; historian, Curtis Godwin.

Directors are: Florida, Marion Edwards; Georgia, Marvin Jernigan and Bill Hawthorne; South Carolina, Bill Robertson and Oliver Mizzell; North Carolina, Joe Austin and Jack Hendrix; and Virginia, Dot Urquhart and Charlie Mason. You may still be a charter member by joining before January 1, 1981. Send \$9 to the treasurer, Mr. J.L. McClintock, 1325 E. Barden Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28211.

NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDENS

ROBERT O. MATTHEWS, Norfolk, Virginia

The horticultural center of Tidewater, Virginia, which serves nine horticultural societies, was conceived in 1936. The idea was the brainchild of Thomas R. Thompson, then city manager of the City of Norfolk. Mr. Thompson was fortunate to have had Fred Heutte, then Superintendent of Parks and Forestry, to take this idea and with a grant from the Federal Government, plus 200 women from the WPA, he cleared the land adjacent to the city reservoir and began the gardens, as it is known today.

The gardens consist of many small gardens and collections of different plants. The basic plants originally were azaleas, but soon after, because of the interest in camellias in Norfolk, a camellia garden grew very rapidly through the 40's and 50's, until we had a collection of 740 varieties and species of camellias, which now include the 22 camellias that have been hybridized in the State of Virginia. The camellia collection is still intact, even though it had to be moved for the airport expansion in 1972. We are now in the process of re-identifying and labeling this collection.

The gardens in 1954 had its first Azalea Festival . . . it is held in connection with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which is headquartered

in Norfolk. This brought the gardens into international prominence, as the queen is selected from one of the NATO nations each year and the other 14 nations furnish a princess.

The gardens now consist of 175 acres and offers to its visitors 12 miles of winding trails and beautifully landscaped canals. On both the trails and the waterways we offer ½ hour narrated tours by trackless trains and small tour boats.

In 1958 the gardens were expanded from the original collection of azaleas and camellias and now include collections of hollies, rhododendrons, flowering trees, roses, bulbs, annuals and many types of flowering shrubbery, to give the gardens a year-round blanket of color. The gardens are adjacent to the Norfolk International Airport and are open every day of the year.

In addition to serving as a horticulture center, the gardens also are the training ground for an established horticultural school sponsored by the Federal Government.

The garden is solely supported by the City of Norfolk and serves as one of the ten points of interest to tourists within our city limits.

We welcome you to visit us; there is always something in bloom.

Copies of *THE CAMELLIA* Still Available

ACS still has copies of the book *THE CAMELLIA* for sale.. This book, as you probably already know, was edited by Dave Feathers and Milton Brown. It is the most comprehensive book on camellia culture ever to be printed. It literally covers everything you would need or want to know about camellias and how to grow them. Surely there is a gardener on your Christmas list who already has everything. Why not give him or her a copy of this beautifully illustrated, informative book and watch his or her eyes light up with joy! Just send \$12.50 to the following address: THE BOOK, American Camellia Society, P.O. Box 1217, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



Luther Baxter



Susan Fagan

Further Studies on Camellia Flower Blight, 1980¹

LUTHER W. BAXTER, JR. and SUSAN G. FAGAN²

Camellia flower blight is caused by the fungus, *Sclerotinia camelliae*. This fungus is related to *Ovulinia azaleae*, the cause of azalea petal blight and to *Monilinia fructicola*, the cause of peach brown rot. *S. camelliae* is active primarily during January, February, and March, which coincides with the natural flowering period of many cultivars of *C. japonica*. The fungus survives from camellia flowering season to season as a hard black mass of fungal growth known as sclerotium. This sclerotium forms in the base of diseased flowers on the ground and remains after the decay of the flower in a dormant form from one season to the next. The sclerotia germinate during the January-March period of the following season and eject ascospores into the air. These spores are then carried at random by wind currents to open flowers, and, under proper environmental conditions, initiate camellia flower blight. The above information is well-documented in numerous articles (1).

The purpose of this research with camellia flower blight in 1980 was to study methods of reducing the number of

sclerotia developing from infected camellia flowers by regulating the environment in which the fallen flowers exist.

Many naturally infected camellia flowers which are brought into the laboratory (22 to 24 C) and placed in a moist environment (such as enclosed in plastic bags) form, or start to form, sclerotia, which then rot. This information suggests that the creation of a constantly moist environment might cause the premature decay of sclerotia produced in infected flowers. Therefore, the following treatments were conducted during the spring (April) of 1980: (1) infected flowers were placed on sand under intermittent mist; (2) infected flowers were placed in dense shade (in this case infected flowers of 10 camellia cultivars were included, i.e., Julia France, Lady Clare, R.L. Wheeler, White Herme, Miss Charleston, Barbara Morgan, Rev. John Drayton, Ville de Nantes, Peppermint*, and Paulette Goddard); (3) infected flowers were placed on sand in a moist (but not wet) environment; (4) infected flowers were left in place under the plant on which they were produced (cultivar Paulette Goddard, a camellia known to support sclerotial formation, and a very late-blooming cultivar).

Natural inoculum was the source of

¹Contribution No. 1815 of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. Published with approval of the Director.

²Professor and Ag. Science Assistant, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631.

*One of our own seedlings.

infection for all flowers. The weather conditions prevailing during this period (April 1980) were abnormally hot (maximum 33 to 35° C) and dry (25 days without rain). Over 90 % of the open camellia flowers were infected in March and early April, but infection was limited (less than 20%) during mid- to late April.

Some sclerotia formed under all of the above four conditions. The highest number of sclerotia developed (91%) when infected flowers were placed in dense shade, followed by infected flowers placed on sand in a moist, but not a wet, environment (57%). Infected flowers left in either a very dry environment under a camellia plant or placed on sand in a very wet environment produced fewer sclerotia (33 and 28 percent, respectively). In the wet environment (intermittent mist — 30 seconds of mist every 15 minutes, onto flowers placed on sand for drainage) many of the flowers produced sclerotia, but a high percentage of them rotted. It was thought that most infected flowers kept wet would rot without producing sclerotia as they had in the laboratory, but such was not the case. Some did rot, but many sclerotia developed and survived to carry the fungus over winter. Thus an environment which is very wet or very dry does not support the production and survival of as many sclerotia as does an environment in which conditions are either slightly moist or in dense shade (otherwise a dry environment), but some sclerotia were produced and survived in all of the situations provided.

Sclerotia developed equally well on infected flowers from the various cultivars. Large sclerotia formed on large infected flowers (such as R.L. Wheeler) and smaller sclerotia developed on small, single to semi-double-type infected flowers (such as White Herme).

In the laboratory this fungus grows well vegetatively on carrot juice-banana pulp agar at either 20 or 30° C. Sclerotia are produced readily in culture on this medium at 20° C, but no sclerotia are produced at 30° C. This factor may account for the low percentage of sclerotia formed on the flowers of cultivar Paulette Goddard (under the plant) since the temperatures recorded during this period, April 1980, often exceeded 30° C.

The maintenance of a constantly moist environment by supplemental irrigation would thus be expected to reduce significantly the number of surviving viable sclerotia, but this reduction is not considered sufficient to provide a practical means of disease control under garden conditions.

Acknowledgment

The authors wish to express their appreciation to Dr. W.M. Epps, Professor and Head Emeritus, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, for his review and comments.

Literature

1. Raabe, Robert D., A.G. Flakidas, and Luther W. Baxter, Jr. 1958. Flower blight of camellia. In E.C. Tourje (Ed.) *Camellia Culture*, p. 279-285. The MacMillan Company.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

This is a reminder that membership runs with the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31. Dues for 1981, paid before January 1, will save the treasurer from having to mail out a notice, thus saving the society postage. Postage, now, is a significant item. So mail your dues (\$7.50) to Mr. Elliott Brogden, 309 DuBose Dr., Columbia, S.C. 29204.

SISTER PET COMES HOME AGAIN

JAMES H. McCOY, Fayetteville, N.C.

'Sister Pet' is a camellia. It grew by the back door of the old homeplace near Sumter, S.C., where I was raised. It was a seedling that came up under one of my grandmother Gordon's japonica (camellia) plants. As she did with all of them, she tenderly took it up and planted it down at the end of the garden. Most of these, two dozen or so, were not very pretty, but 'Sister Pet' surely was. It was named for one of my grandmother's sisters who died in infancy or early childhood. It was just like 'Alba Plena' except for the color. The color was light pink with a lot of dots and dashes of dark red. This is the story of how it got from "down at the end of the garden" to the back door.

Fletcher Evans was a bachelor or a widower, I'm not sure which, who lived on a few acres down on the edge of the swamp. To get to Fletcher Evans' place in a wagon, you would have to pass through my grandmother's yard, right beside the house, then on through the farm to the swamp. There were many paths to Fletcher Evans' place, but no other road. Nobody minded his coming and going through the yard. In fact, I don't think anybody questioned his right to do so, as there was no other way.

Fletcher Evans didn't farm his land, except for some peas he scattered in the Spring. He may have had a garden, I don't remember. But he had chickens, guineas, pigs and a cow. They were all self-sufficient, at least during the Summer they were. Fletcher Evans would take to the swamp at Easter time and wouldn't come out till cotton picking time. The chickens, guineas, and pigs took care of themselves. The hens would set, hatch and raise their biddies. The guineas would do the same. By the end of Summer, his yard would be full of frying-sized chickens, none of which had ever seen a human, much less been fed by one. Fletcher Evans said that he spent the Summer trapping

but my grandmother didn't believe him. She said that she knew what he was up to in the swamp. That he didn't use all that sugar he hauled through her yard for making jelly. And besides, the summer's not the time for trapping. I believed him, though, because I had seen the coon skins nailed to the sides of his barn. And he told me that he fed the sugar to his bees.

Anyway, one afternoon in March, Fletcher Evans drove up and stopped his wagon beside the porch where we were sitting. He and my grandmother started talking. He said, "Miss Gordon, I sure do like them japonicas of yours. I sho' wish I had one. You wouldn't sell me one, would you?"

My grandmother said, "I might. How much would you give me for one?"

"Well, I don't have no money, but I'll swap you a chicken for one."

"All right. If you want one bad enough to come dig it up, you can have it."

So, the next day, Fletcher Evans came about supertime bringing a tow sack with a chicken in it, and a shovel. He told my grandmother that he would put the chicken in the hen house and latch the door. He told her to keep the hen shut up for at least two weeks or else, "She'll fly home."

"Hens can't fly, Mr. Fletcher. They just flap and flutter."

"This one can."

"All right, I'll keep her shut up for a while."

My grandmother told him to go down to the end of the garden and get any one of the japonicas that he wanted.

Well, the next day, she found out that he had got 'Sister Pet.' She was fit to be tied. She told me to go over to Fletcher Evans' and tell him to bring 'Sister Pet' back. I went, but didn't bring 'Sister Pet' back. Fletcher Evans said to tell Miss Gordon that she had told him to get any one that he wanted, and that a bargain

is a bargain.

I hated to tell my grandmother that, but I knew that Fletcher Evans was right about what she had told him. I felt sorry for her because I knew how much she cherished that particular japonica. She was heartbroken! She didn't say much. She didn't even whistle anymore. She always whistled when she was happy. She said, "The Lord didn't give me a singing voice, so I whistle." She generally whistled "In the Garden" when she was happy. When she was very happy, it was "The Old Rugged Cross." If she was very, very happy, she whistled "Beulah Land."

Then, after about a week, she suddenly changed. She actually had a smile on her face. When Fletcher Evans came through the yard that afternoon, she stopped him.

"Mr. Fletcher," she said, "The wind blew the chicken house door open and the hen you gave me got out."

"I know it, Miss Gordon. I saw her in the yard this morning. I told you that she would fly home. Look, I'm leaving for the swamp early in the morning. If you'll send one of the hands over to my house, he can catch you a chicken. Tell him to catch whichever one he wants."

"Thank you, Mr. Fletcher. I sure will."

Well, my grandmother waited an extra day and sent me over to Fletcher Evans' house. She told me to catch his rooster. She said, "Don't bring me back a hen. Be sure it's his rooster." So I did.

She shut the rooster up in the chicken house and kept him there for more than three weeks before she was sure that he wouldn't go back to Fletcher Evans'.

Then, one afternoon, at the end of summer, Fletcher Evans came up to the back door. He sure was mad. He said, "Miss Gordon, did you get my rooster?"

"I sure did, Mr. Fletcher."

"I didn't give you my rooster, Miss Gordon! I gave you one of my hens. When I got back last night I was hungry

for a mess of fried chicken, and there wasn't a single frying-size chicken in the yard. No wonder, you can't have frying-sized chickens if you don't have no rooster in the yard."

"You didn't say 'hen,'" Mr. Fletcher. You said that I could get any *chicken* I could catch. A bargain is a bargain."

"I guess you're right, Miss Gordon. I did say any chicken. But I never thought you'd take my rooster."

"Well, I never thought you'd take my 'Sister Pet,' either."

"Would you trade back, Miss Gordon? I'll bring 'Sister Pet' back if you'll give me my rooster back."

"I guess that'd be all right — if you'll plant 'Sister Pet' right here by the back door."

"I'll do it tomorrow. Can I have my rooster?"

True to his word, Fletcher Evans came the next morning and spent about an hour planting 'Sister Pet' right by the back door.

After Fletcher Evans left, I told my grandmother that I never had believed that the wind had blown the chicken house door open. She didn't say anything, but she looked at me with a "whistling" look on her face. And sure enough, in a few minutes she was in the kitchen washing dishes and whistling "Beulah Land" so loud till 'Sister Pet' out by the back door could hear.

History of the VCS

Continued from page 11

Both have since been awarded the Bronze Plaque for distinguished service.

Past presidents of VCS in chronological order are: H.A. Hartigan, Alan J. Hotheimer, Henry M. Pinner, Alison J. Parsons, Dr. J.N. Habel, Bernard N. Wolter, Frederic Huette, Joseph C. Nelson, E.T. Penzold, Jr., Hugh L. Vaughan, Eugene M. Worrell, Samuel F. Thornton, Dr. Anne Lee, Robert Matthews, Earnest E. Wooden, William G. Redwood, Lee Myers and John Walsh.

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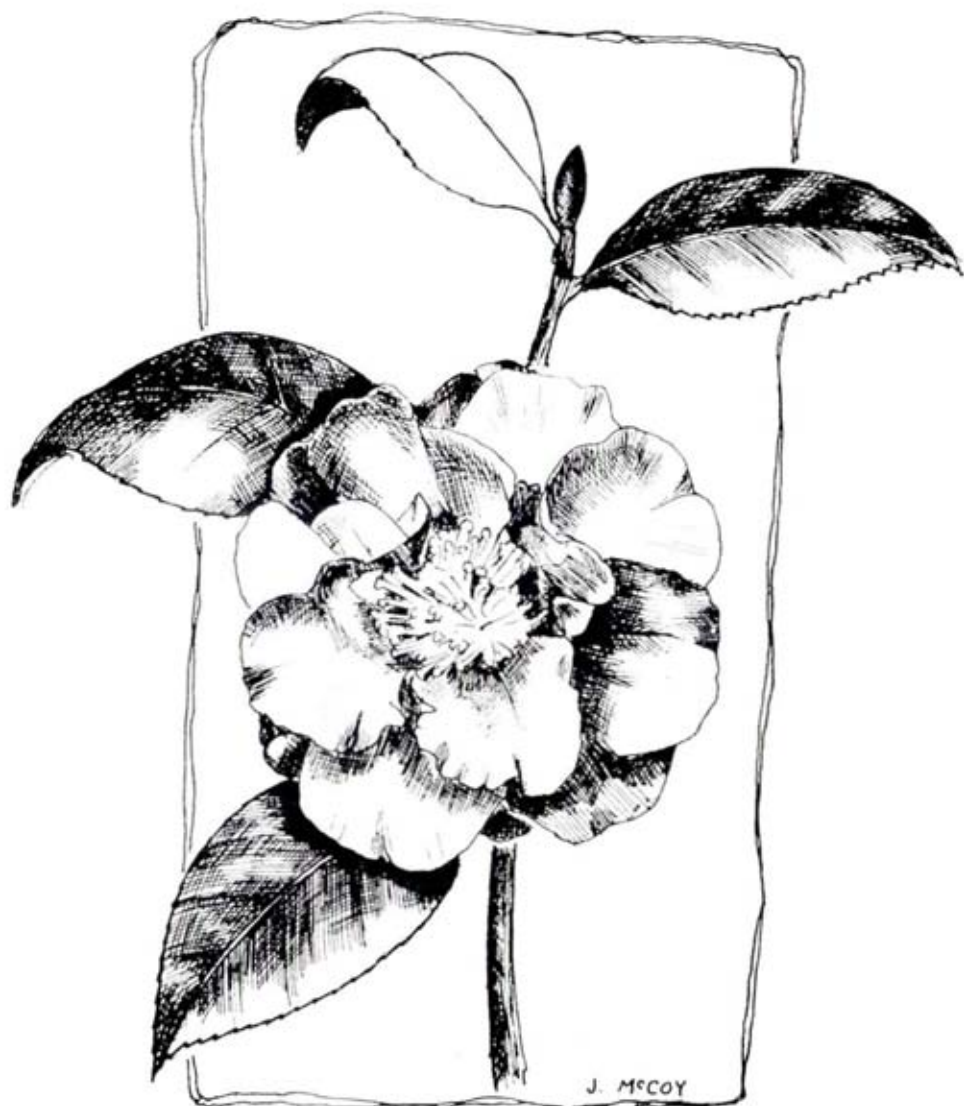
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