

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Autumn 2013

Volume 39 No. 4



“Rosularis”

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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Camellian

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From Our Cover

C. japonica “Rosularis” was originated at Jungle Gardens, Avery Island, Louisiana in 1937. It was registered in 1941 by E. A. McIlhenny. Large, peony form, white blotched rose pink.





President's Message

Lynn Vicknair

Hopefully everyone has received their GCCS conference package by now. The Baughs and the Mobile club have a wonderful program planned. They have procured a special Boehm Porcelain Camellia for the raffle. You can purchase chances on this beautiful piece even if you do not attend the conference. We will enter your name for you. If you are attending, your tickets for the raffle will be given to you with your registration packet at the hotel. Please remember to let Florence know what you are bringing for the silent auction. There is one more piece of late-breaking news. James Farmer, the official spokesperson for the ACS, will be attending our conference. He is a very entertaining speaker since he is the author of 5 books and is a Southern Living Editor at Large. He is also a fabulous designer, gardener, and cook.

I don't know how busy everyone else has been but the

Baton Rouge club has been working hard all summer. The mist beds are ready! We are ready to stick thousands of cuttings. We are trying to grow some "own-root" plants to add to our grafted inventory. We have had some luck over the past two years until our "leaf" misting system quit working after a power outage at our facility. Our handy-dandy club-member electricians and plumbers have us back in business now. Our camellia friends from all over the coast are sending us cuttings. Watch the *Camellian* to keep up with our progress!

On another note, I need to report some sad news. The GCCS lost a special member with the death of Marie Mizell. We all know how much she loved this club and her camellias. I know we all will be thinking of her throughout our upcoming meeting.

Also, we have had some changes in our officers. Unfortunately, Peter and

Lynnette Soules have resigned due to illness. I have appointed Carol Comber to serve as Secretary and Dr. Mike Ruth to serve as Treasurer. If you need to report any change of address or email, please contact Mike at majbruth@cox.net.

I hope to see everyone at the conference. This is a great time to invite your camellia friends to join GCCS and come learn something new at the conference!



C. japonica "Charlotte Bradford." A sport of "Mrs. Baldwin Wood" introduced in 1950 by Bradford's Wayside Nurseries, Ocean Springs, MS

In Memorium.....

Marie DeLaughter Mizell passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 16, 2013, at Touro Infirmary, at the age of 87, following a brief illness. Marie is survived by her husband, Maddox W. Mizell, her daughter, Maria Mizell Simpson, her son-in-law, Justin Simpson, her grandchildren, Brandon Simpson, Jennifer Simpson and Courtney Simpson, and her sisters, Augusta DeLaughter Dugan, Frances DeLaughter Crovetto, and Sylvia DeLaughter Hay. She was preceded in death by her parents, Myrtle and Clyde DeLaughter, and her brother, Elton DeLaughter.



Marie Mizell

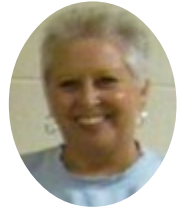
Marie was a member and past president of the Camellia Society of New Orleans, a member and past vice-president of the American Camellia Society and a member and past president of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society.

She also was the first female licensed landscape contractor in the state of Louisiana. Marie was a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana College. Memorial donations may be made to the Camellia Society of New Orleans, 3705 Severn Ave., Metairie, LA 70002, or a charity of your own choice.

She will be truly missed. She and Max made things so much easier for so many of our clubs. They were never too busy to identify blooms or help with some club business that needed diplomacy. Our thoughts and our prayers are with Max and the family at this sad time.

From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson
Brookhaven, Mississippi



It is now getting to be "party time" for camellia people. The first "party" will be the GCCS Conference in Spanish Fort, Alabama Oct.14-16. The three days will be full of interesting and very informative sessions. Tours will be available, too. One I am looking forward to will be touring Jim Smelley's greenhouses. Some years ago, our local Camellia Society was able to tour his greenhouses and the tour took place on a Tuesday. At the time I was president of our Lion's club and since we meet on Tuesdays was not able to go with them. Haven't quite gotten over that yet! There will be a silent auction and members are urged to bring items for this. A lovely Boehm porcelain is being raffled and the drawing will take place then. As always, our camellia friends are really the best company and fun companions and we look forward to the events that week. Mobile Camellia Club never disappoints when they have a show or conference so please send your acceptance and your checks early. It does make it much easier for the people planning all the events.

The other "party" on the horizon is the American Camellia Society Convention to be held in Pensacola, Fla. Dec.11-15. I have attended several of these and they are really a great experience. Of course,

Pensacola is a great place for any event of any kind, but again, camellia people love to entertain and are so hospitable. To meet a lot of these camellia people that we only read about in the camellia journals or see in some of the photographs is a joy. The Pensacola club always works so hard for any kind of show or conference you will have a wonderful time.

Now is the time, too, to get ready and mark your calendar for all of the upcoming shows. The first that we usually attend is in Gulfport, and after that the floodgates are opened. There are lots of shows to attend and also these will be places to buy some new plants. I have already been in our yard and decided who has to be replaced due to drought, deer or other things. Also some old varieties and some new varieties to be acquired. Perhaps a spare in case one of our favorites is looking "puny." We have several of those, too. The limits here are space, money and willingness of some of our family members to dig holes.

I need to mention the judging school that was held in April of this year in Gulfport. This was really fun and the Coast people did an outstanding job with food and facilities and instructors. We had a really great time.



Camellias in Scotland and the Duke of Argyll's Tea Tree.

By Duncan Beaton, Houston, Renfrewshire, Scotland



Camellias are a great favourite in the temperate west coast of Scotland. A moderately cool and very damp climate, it is washed by the Gulfstream and consequently always a few degrees warmer than even a few miles inland.

That slight difference in climate, coupled with a peaty, acidic soil, makes it a great area for growing camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons, not just in the big gardens of the landed gentry (who first introduced them from Asia, and whose gardens are now generally open to the public) but also in smaller gardens: that is, except mine. I never seem to have the success of my neighbours, but keep on trying.

You may wonder why a Scotsman is contributing to your journal, all the way from his native Scotland. That is entirely down to a friendship with your editor, whose Campbell ancestors came from this very same west of Scotland. In fact, he has traced his lineage back to a family whose garden is one of our most famous, Crarae Gardens in Argyll, started by the Campbell family and now looked after by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

Of course, we all know that the camellia plant's fame was originally

not for its flowers, but for its leaves. *Camellia Sinensis*, or “*Thea*” is the tea plant, first brought to Britain in the early 1700s. Found in Asia from Assam in modern-day India to China, it is too tender to be grown outdoors in Scotland, even where the Gulfstream washes the shore, but will survive in gardens in the south of England.



The tea plant c. sinensis.

Its small white flowers are not notable, the glory is all in the leaves. The preparation of “a dish of tea” was initially the preserve of the very wealthy and, it must be said, popularity usually leads to taxation. This taxation led to the famous/infamous (depending on which side you were on) Boston Tea Party and American Independence, but that's another story!

In Britain the common species camellia is *Japonica*, usually displayed as a large evergreen shrub with polished green leaves. It is still found in the wild in its native Korea, Japan and parts of China and was first introduced to Britain in 1739, almost coincidental with its tea-making cousin. Later cultivars found in the wild were also introduced, and *Japonica* has now become the plaything of the commercial hybridist and amateur gardener alike. At the present time cultivars of this species are numbered in thousands, and are constantly being added to. In fact it is claimed by some specialists that far too many barely separable sports (mutations) have been made separate entities by their proud "creators". Hybrids of the *Japonica* species we will come to later.

When your editor is mentioning tending to his camellia plants in our correspondence it is still winter here in Scotland, but our camellias are in bloom from late March to mid-May. Sometimes they are tempted into flower too soon by early sun, and as a result their beautiful blooms suffering some scorching by the frost.

Camellia Reticulata is one of the most beautiful of all our early flowering shrubs. A semi double form was introduced from its western China habitat by the Scots plant hunter Robert Fortune (1812-80), who dressed as a Chinaman to gain access otherwise denied to westerners at the time (he was really after the tea-making camellia, which

he helped introduce commercially to India). He gave it the name "Captain Rawes", and for many years it was believed to be the type plant of the species. That was until 1924, when another great Scots plant hunter, George Forrest (1873-



C. reticulata "Captain Rawes" China to England 1820.

1932), sent home a specimen of the single form from the same region. This makes a large but compact shrub, with leathery, veined leaves which are an excellent foil for the large rose-pink flowers.

Similar to *Reticulata* is *C Saluenensis*, also from western China, but it is too tender for western Scotland. Instead, its claim to fame, as far as Scottish gardens are concerned, comes through its hybridisation. The plant breeder John Charles (JC) Williams, of Caerhays Castle, Cornwall, crossed the hardy *Japonica* with *Saluenensis* in the 1920s and 1930s, producing the *Williamsii* hybrid, considered by many to be one of the most valuable and exquisitely beautiful shrubs in cultivation, and

the best camellia for planting across most of the British Isles. The myriad of cultivars originating from this cross are invaluable in many



C. salunensis x c. japonica hybrid "Donation"
Eng 1941 - Clarke.

is to feast on the species camellias and their often naturally-occurring crosses. Crarae, Arduaine, and Auchnacloch, to name but a few, are all Campbell gardens known to



C. japonica Adolph Audusson, France 1877.
A large plant was seen growing at Arduaine Gardens on the west coast of Argyll.

your editor. For the smaller gardens the *Williamsii* hybrids are a feature, especially the large, semi-double, orchid-pink flowers of "Donation".



A williamsii hybrid growin in a private garden in the village of Furnace, Argyll, Scotland.

The Duke of Argyll's Tea Tree

As we started with reference to the tea plant, and camellia associations with the Clan Campbell in the gardens of the west of Scotland, it seems appropriate to end by bringing the two topics back together. *Lycium Barbarum* is a rambling shrub which also comes from China, and is popular in coastal areas of Scotland. It is more commonly known as "The Duke of Argyll's Tea Tree". The Duke of Argyll is chief of the Campbell Clan, and how this plant got its name is an interesting bynote.

spring gardens, free flowering over a long period if kept frost-free.

A walk round the great Scottish West Coast Gardens in Springtime

It was stated earlier that in the early 18th century the drinking of tea was fashionable and only for the very wealthy. At a price then of 16 shillings a pound weight the Duke of Argyll of the time (Archibald Campbell, 3rd Duke, 1682-1761) requested some plants for the garden of his English estate at Whitton, near London. Among the plants delivered were a *Camellia Sinensis* and a *Lycium Barbarum*, but the latter plant became confused with its near relative *L. Chinense*, causing the labels to get mixed up. So the Duke's surviving plant grew, with berries and long, spiny branches. There is no evidence that they ever tried to drink "tea" brewed from its leaves, but the plant's popular name remains in place to this day.



***Lycium Barbarum*, commonly known as "Goji Berry" is known in Scotland as the Duke of Argyll's Tea Tree."**

Lycium Barbarum is now used for health supplement purposes in the form of pills, juice, dried fruit, powders, seeds, and tea. It is known for its powerful antioxidant properties and potential benefits of related products including: Powerful antioxidant, Anti-fatigue properties, Improved sexual function, Improved metabolism, Immune system boost, Anti-aging properties, Blood pressure regulation and Cardiovascular health.



Crarae Gardens and Lodge on Loch Fine. Many camellias are included in the plantings at Crarae, but the rhododendrons are spectacular.

Fired up about Camellias: *E. A. McIlhenny and Tabasco Sauce™*

By Trent James, MD, Baton Rouge, LA

Anymwhere food is served or prepared, there is usually found a 5 ½ inch tall by 1 ½ inch wide round clear glass bottle with a long neck, bright green collar, with a diamond-shaped white label with red and green print and a red plastic cap containing a fiery

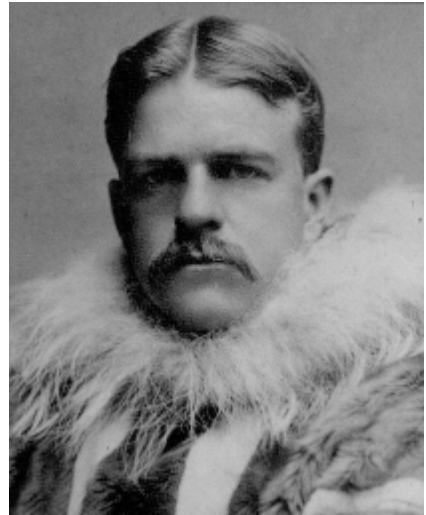


hot reddish liquid. If you haven't guessed yet, it is "hot stuff"—*McIlhenny Co. TABSCO Pepper Sauce*. Do you know that there is a strong relationship of camellias to the history of this popular worldwide condiment? Yes, there is.

Edward "Ned" Avery McIlhenny, born March 29, 1872 on Avery Island, Iberia Parish, Louisiana. He was educated by private tutors before attending Dr. Holbrook's Military School in Sing Sing, New York. McIlhenny enrolled at Lehigh University, but he dropped out of school to join Frederick Cook's 1894 Arctic expedition as an ornithologist. In 1897 he financed his own Arctic expedition to Point Barrow, Alaska, where he helped to save over a hundred stranded whaling fleet sailors. On

his return to Louisiana, McIlhenny assumed control of McIlhenny Company, overseeing Tabasco sauce production as president of the organization until his death fifty-one years later. He suffered a stroke in late 1946, and died August 8, 1949, at the age of 77 years. His life is chronicled in *Tabasco: An Illustrated History* by Shane K. Bernard, 2007.

E. A. McIlhenny strongly influ-



E. A. joined Frederick Cook's 1894 Arctic expedition as an ornithologist.

enced the McIlhenny Company during his time at the helm of this successful American and South Louisiana enterprise. He expanded production of this popular sauce,

building an enlarged processing facility, developing marketing techniques to spread *Tabasco Sauce* across the world, even onto the battlefields of WWII and making *Tabasco* a household brand.

McIlhenny also introduced the now ubiquitous modern screw-top *Tabasco* sauce bottle, which replaced the original cork-top *Tabasco* sauce bottle that had been used from 1868 to 1927; he also redesigned the iconic *Tabasco* diamond logo trademark, largely creating the version known today.

Besides his business endeavors, McIlhenny was a many faceted individual

loving his home place on Avery Island. He was truly an outdoorsman, hunting, fishing, and planting many species of plants in his environment. Notable among these were bamboo, camellias and azaleas. He studied and pursued collecting numerous varieties.

E.A. was known to throw himself and his fortune into the procuring and propagation of many varieties of camellias as were known to exist at the time. His quest took him across Louisiana, the South,

Europe and Japan and did so at a time when it was possible between the World Wars and during a worldwide economic depression. McIlhenny subsidized the reprinting of the two most important 19th century botanical treatises on camellias: The Abb Lorenza Berlise's 1838, *Monography of the Genus Camellia*

translated from the French the same year by Henry A. S. Dearborn and originally published in Boston. This translation was long out of print. McIlhenny paid for reprinting and made it available to camellia lovers at a reasonable



Edward Avery McIlhenny, circa 1930.

price. It contained description of 280 varieties known to Berlise in 1838 and of their cultivation and care.

McIlhenny translated the text of Alexandre Verschaffelt's *New Iconography of the Camellias 1848—1860*, from the original French catalogs published annually from 1846 through 1859, a total of thirteen issues. His stated purpose in the preface was to "enable camellia-fanciers to correctly name many varieties now in their collections

that heretofore have been incorrectly named.”

So, Verschaffelt’s description of 623 varieties known in Europe in the mid-19th century was made available to all of us without a command of the French language by E.A. McIlhenny in 1945.

Both have assisted camellia enthusiasts over the years in the identification and study of the camellia varieties.

McIlhenny developed his 250 acre estate, “Jungle Gardens,” into a wholesale plant nursery, hired landscape engineers to design gardens and plantings across Louisiana, notably City Park, New Orleans and the New State Capitol grounds in Baton Rouge in the middle of which Senator Huey P. Long is buried. His “Jungle Gardens” contained 60 varieties of bamboo, 150 varieties of azaleas, 700 plus varieties of camellias, and 1700 varieties of irises.

He was involved in hybridizing many varieties and spent many years in the experimentation and commercialization of the spread of successful varieties across the South and the country.

His landscape architectural services designed and laid the grounds of the old and new State Capitols, LSU Campus and various other public works projects during the depression era.

Camellias came to Louisiana in the early 19th c., imported from France, where they were at the height of popularity, by many plantation owners. Arriving early in the Bayou Teche region, they were quite the rage and landscaped many yards and gardens. Advertisements in New Orleans newspapers as early as 1823 were offering camellias from nurseries back east. Many camellias survived the “great unpleasantness,” the Civil War, while their homes were destroyed, and were seen by

young “Ned” McIlhenny while growing up in Iberia Parish.

He began to collect specimen camellias from neighboring plantations, and old home sites along Bayou Teche. It is reported by

his daughter in *The American Camellia Society (ACS) Yearbook 1953* that 121 Camellia “trees” were transplanted from Comte de Vidrine’s plantation and moved to Avery Island. It was from up and down the Teche country that he



C. japonica “Leucantha,” the white form of “Tricolor,” was imported by McIlhenny in 1937.

formed the nucleus of his collection of camellias.

In *The ACS Yearbook 1950*, "Notes On Some Old Varieties" by A. A. Hunt, Landscape Engineer in Charge, Bellingrath Gardens, Mobile, AL, recalls that in 1925, while working for E. A. McIlhenny, they were involved in the transplanting of several specimen camellias from their original growing sites onto Avery Island. Notable were the camellias planted everywhere in the

Teche country. Varieties were primarily localized with owners spreading from their plants by cuttings and layering to their friends and neighbors. One local variety was *Jeanerette Pink* from the small town of

Jeanerette, where it was spread all over the community and up and down the Bayou. An original tree is still growing on Jefferson Island, Iberia Parish, near Avery Island.

While at Avery Island, Hunt moved many fine specimens 10 to 15 feet in height. These were planted in major landscape plantings executed by Jungle Gardens, Inc., in Houston, Beaumont, New Orleans, LSU, and the State Capitol at Baton

Rouge, along the Gulf Coast and to Bellingrath Gardens, Mobile.

A fine collection of camellias imported by David Hill, Dundee, Illinois, was moved from Gretna, LA, to Avery Island in 1929. Outstanding varieties within this group included *Adolphe Audusson* and *Mathotiana*.

Early in 1929, Hunt claimed to have moved the original plants of *Vedrine* and *Governor Mouton*. In a small village located between Ville

Platte and Opelousas named Vidrine, Hunt while searching for large camellias was able to contract for the removal of a fine specimen about 12 feet high and 10 feet in diameter at a small gasoline filling station.

The plant was moved in the fall to Avery Island where it was set out beside E.A. McIlhenny's residence. When the camellia bloomed, the variety could not be identified, propagation was started by Jungle Gardens, Inc. The plant proved popular and was promptly named after the town *Vedrine* but was misspelled. Two large specimens of *Governor Mouton* were moved from the Governor's home place outside of Lafayette. One for someone other than Mr.



The original C. japonica "Governor Mouton" was moved to Avery Island in 1929 from the home of Governor Mouton near Lafayette, Louisiana.

McIlhenny was reportedly lost. The one to Avery Island survived.

In 1935, "Jungle Gardens" were opened to the public which promoted automobile tourism and was a first "Camellia Trail" destination for camellia lovers from east and west who traveled to view the beautiful gardens and see the source of that tantalizing "hot stuff"--- *T a b a s c o Sauce™*.

In his pursuit for more varieties of camellias, McIlhenny sent abroad for known varieties growing there.

Writing about these importations in *The ACS Yearbook 1950*, Dr. Ira S. Nelson, Ph.D., a horticultural professor, from Lafayette, Louisiana, stated that E.A. began collecting camellias at the turn of the 20th c., and that his camellia collection in 1902 numbered over 100 varieties. By 1931, McIlhenny's first importations from outside the United States were made available to the public.

During 1931-1939, E.A. imported more camellia varieties than any other person known to that date. He propagated and placed on the market these varieties as soon as

sufficient stock was available. It is claimed that these importations and the variety of plants available to the public played a large part in the revival of camellia popularity in America. It is not likely that all of his camellia activities will ever truly



C. japonica "Jacksonii," the solid red sport of "Gigantea," was imported in 1937 from Guichard Seours in Nantes, France.

be known or fully appreciated. Dr. Nelson, who was eventually named a Fellow of the ACS, was most impressed with McIlhenny's accomplishments.

Mr. McIlhenny was described by Nelson as a

"rare combination of scientist, naturalist, and showman." His nursery catalogs were full of camellia names foreign to the English tongue. A notable catalog *700 Varieties, 1941*, is studied by many camellia scholars. To some, these names appeared to have originated from a fertile imagination for the purpose of adding names to his catalogs. Mr. McIlhenny vigorously defended the validity of these names. As a matter of fact, he advocated the use of prior foreign names rather than the American synonyms.

This article listed camellias imported as furnished by McIlhenny's daughter Polly M. Simmons and sources included:

Robert Veitch & Sons, Ltd. Exeter, England 1931-37, a total of 24 of which 15 were japonicas.

T.J. Seidel, Dresden, Germany, Dec. 30, 1937, a total of 22, 21 of which were japonicas.

Guichard Soeurs, Nantes, France, 1931-37, a total 179 all japonicas

The Chugai Shokubutsu Yen, Kobe, Japan 1934-39, a total 172 japonicas and 94 sasanquas.

K. Yashiroda. Ltd., Kagawaken, Japan, 1939, reportedly sent 3 *C. reticulatas* but doubtful to the editor of the yearbook. Mr. Hunt in his article in the same 1950 Yearbook mentions camellias coming from Yokohama Nursery Co., Japan.

It is of interest, that very possibly, some of the extinct varieties that resulted from the "Fire Storm" from Allied bombing of Dresden, Germany, and from the atomic bomb blasts over Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945 could still exist on Avery Island.

There is a humorous story told of Mr. McIlhenny and his camellia quest that when a new shipment of camellias arrived on the Island, he told his foreman in charge of getting

these naked plants back into nourishing soil and moisture, to be sure to keep all the tags and labels together with the plants. Upon his return a few days later to survey which plants were surviving and thriving, the foreman, to reassure the boss of a job well done, showed him all the tags and labels...in a shoebox!

Included in "The Stories Behind the Names" by D. C. Strother, Fort Valley, GA, in *The ACS Yearbook 1958*, writing as Chair of the Varietal Registration and Nomenclature Committee, Mr. Strother discussed the use of *Laurel Leaf* as a synonym for the old variety *Lallarook*. It seems that the name *Laurel Leaf* originated with the late E. A. McIlhenny. Early after his importations,

assisted by Mary Swords Debaillon of Lafayette, McIlhenny gave names to varieties whose true identity were unknown to them. Given the appearance of the leaves of the lost-label *Lallarook*,

they named it *Laurel Leaf*. In later years, once McIlhenny learned the true varietal name was *Lallarook*, he discarded the name *Laurel Leaf* and made subsequent changes to the catalogues from Jungle Gardens,



A lost label import was named "Laurel Leaf" by McIlhenny. It was later identified as c. japonica "Lallarook" and the name "Laurel Leaf" was discarded.

Inc. Mr. Strother concluded, "It does seem that if the individual (McIlhenny) who was responsible for the error was willing to accept the correct name, others should be willing to do likewise."

There were several varieties that were given new names by McIlhenny that later proved to be previously named and better known by same. He was always willing to correct these errors. But it did prompt him to support the founding of The American Camellia Society whose primary purpose was initially to correct this problem and he served on its very first nomenclature committee. It is truly unfortunate that given his knowledge, experience in growing and comparing camellias over 40 years, his extensive collection and profound love of this species that his health

failed him amidst the role that the ACS had underway in establishing nomenclature standards. EA suffered a debilitating stroke in 1947 and died two years later.

Mr. Sigmund J. Katz and his wife Jessie from Covington, LA, were both longtime ACS Board members. He, in *The ACS year-book 1947*, wrote about his Camellia *sasanqua* collection of more than 30 varieties secured primarily from E.A. McIlhenny's importations from Japan.

In going through Mr. McIlhenny's donated personal business papers in the Louisiana State University Hill Memorial Library, there is very little about his

future camellia interest, only covering the time up to late 1920s before he began his importations. They do reflect his interest in landscaping,



C. japonica "Frau Gehimrat Oldevig" was imported from T. J. Seidel in Dresden, Germany in 1937. It was named Mme. Chaing Kai-Shek by McIlhenny, but he discarded that name in favor of the original German name.



C. japonica Rosularis. Originated at Avery Island and introduced by McIlhenny in 1941.

ordering “red and white” camellias for planting in New Orleans City Park, in his commitment to the conservation of the Louisiana coastal wetlands and to the creatures

whose habitat it was. McIlhenny arranged for the formation of the Wildlife Refuge in southcentral and southwestern Louisiana by donating property which he termed, “This was the first wildlife refuge in the world, privately donated for the public good.” He negotiated with the Sage and Rockefeller Foundations to further increase the size of this wildlife sanctuary for a total of 175,000 acres of pristine coastal wetlands dedicated to wildfowl conservation--a remarkable gift to our state and to our country.

E.A. saved the Snowy Egret from extinction by professional “plume hunters” and by the women

who wore those ostentatious hats adorned with its long, wispy feathers, condemning their “barbaric love of adornment, which 1800 years of Christian civilization has failed to eradicate.”

He dedicated 35 acres for their habitat on Avery Island which exists today and known as “Bird City”.

McIlhenny allowed the US Department of Agriculture to cultivate species of plants on Avery Island from around the world to find out if there was any commercial use for such. He also experimented with okra suggesting its sliminess

could be used as an adhesive or a substitute for the marshmallow plant. McIlhenny raised various breeds of dogs and sold hunting dogs across the country and introduced species of animals from other cultures.



A McIlhenny seedling was purchased in 1939-40 by Mrs. G. J. Tinsley of Hammond, LA. After it bloomed in 1944-45, she named it c. japonica “Dr. Tinsley.”



C. japonica “Nina Avery,” one of many McIlhenny originations, was introduced in 1949.

The japonica variety *Dr. Tinsley* was purchased as a very small plant by Mrs. G.J. Tinsley of Hammond, LA, from Heymann's Nursery in Lafayette about 1939 or 1940. It was purchased from a lot of seedlings that Heymann's Nursery purchased from E. A. McIlhenny for the purpose of resale. The variety bloomed first in the 1944-45 season and was shown in the New Orleans Men's Club Show that year and won acclaim. Heymann's Nursery obtained propagation rights and marketed it as *Dr. Tinsley*. The rest is camellia history.

Just one of several, *Virgin's Blush*, a japonica variety was introduced by E.A. McIlhenny, catalogued in 1945 and also became quite popular among camellia growers.

So, this man of many talents and for his love and obsession for many species of plants and animals in his environment is even today thought of in wonder and admiration for furthering the camellia varieties available to us across the gulf south and the world. His Avery Island is a special place of awe and wonder and mystery as it pertains to camellias in this country and the world. The next time you use that small bottle of Tabasco Sauce™ think of camellias...they really are "hot stuff" for many of us, thanks to E. A. McIlhenny of Avery Island, Louisiana.



C. japonica "Big Beauty" McIlhenny 1941.



C. japonica "Virgin's Blush" McIlhenny 1944.



C. japonica "Mollie Moore Davis" McIlhenny 1946. Rose pink sport of "Big Beauty."

INTRODUCTIONS BY E. A. McILHENNY

Agnes Celestine 1948	Dr. Joe Roberts 1948	Miss Mary 1960 (after EAM's death)
Allingham 1941	Dr. Olwig Thayer 1937	Missima (see Horkan Orient to England 1816)
Angelo Botti 1937	E. A. McIlhenny (Kishu-tsukasa Japan to US) 1937	Mme. Chiang Kai-shek (Frau Geheimrat Oldevig, Germany-Seidel to US 1937)
Anne Brown 1946	* Edward Douglas White 1953 (after EAM's death)	Mollie Moore Davis 1946
Baronne Leguay (United States) 1937	* Emmeline LaBiche 1947	Monique Peer 1952 (after EAM's death)
* Baroness de Pontalba 1948	* Etienne de Bore 1945	Mr. Rufus 1941
Big Beauty 1941	Felicitas (Germany to US, McIlhenny) 1937	Mrs. Fisher Simmons 1946
Biho Pink 1937	Felicitas (Germany to US, McIlhenny) 1937	Mrs. William Thompson (England to US) 1935
Bill Porter (Princess Elizabeth) 1948	Jacksoni (solid red form of Gigantea) 1937	Nannine Simmons 1950 (after EAM's death)
Bonnie Prince Charles 1949	Jean Milhet 1950 (after EAM's death)	Neddy Boy 1937
Boule de Feu 1934	* John McDonogh 1946	Nina Avery 1949
Boule de Neige 1935	* Josephine Louise Newcomb 1946	Ouiji 1946
* Cabeza de Vaca 1946	Kate R 1937	* Paul Tulane 1946
Caldwell Red 1937	* Kerlerec 1949	Princess Elizabeth 1948 (Bill Porter)
Caldwell Var 1937	Kishu-tsukasa (Japan 1937, renamed by EAM as Admiral Nimitz; Captain John Sutter)	Quartette 1937
Captain Blood 1950 (after EAM's death)	* Lafayette, 1937	Red Velvet 1945
Captain John Sutter	* Lafcadio Hearn 1946	Rosa Laralarus 1941
Carmine King 1953 (after EAM's death)	Laurel Leaf (later identified as Lallarook, Italy to France 1893 and name dropped)	Rosemary Osborn 1946
Chancellor 1946	Leucantha 1937	Rosularis 1941 (same as Marchioness of Exeter Var)
Cherry-O 1941	Linda Barry 1941	Rubra Virginalis 1937 (Jeanerette Pink)
Comte de Nesselrode (Germany-Seidel to US McIlhenny) 1937	Loveliness 1941	Sally 1946
Comte de Nesselrode (Germany-Seidel to US McIlhenny) 1937	Lucie Audubon 1946	St. Andre (England to US) 1931
Crepe de Chine 1937	Margaret Haughery 1946	Sunrise 1937
* d'Iberville (after EAM's death) 1950	Mary Ann (South) 1948	Sylvia 1948
De L'ile 1937	Melody 1941	Virgin's Blush 1944
* De Soto (after EAM's death) 1955	Minnie Maddern Fiske 1946	White Ball 1941
Deep Velvet Red 1948	Miss Annette 1961 (after EAM's death)	White Beauty 1946
Delorme 1937		Winnie Davis I 1946
Diversaflora Plena 1937		Winnie Davis II = Donckelari

* Mr McIlhenny chose many historical Louisiana names.

This list gathered from *Camellia Nomenclature Historical Edition 1981*, William Woodroof, Editor. The Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

51st Annual Meeting.

October 14 - 16, 2013

Spanish Fort, Alabama

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society will be in Spanish Fort, Alabama, on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

The Marriott Courtyard, Spanish Fort Alabama will be the host hotel.

The board meeting will be Monday afternoon at the Marriott, followed by an auction and dinner at the Daphne Civic Center.



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

EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER

Plant Breeder Buddy Lee, Developer of the Encore Azaleas

Tuesday evening will feature a Banquet and President's Reception at the Daphne Civic Center.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Donnie Barnett, Owner of the Fairhope Tea Plantation

On Wednesday, Jim Smelley will welcome attendees for a tour of his greenhouses throughout the day starting at 8:30 a.m.

Gulf Coast Annual Meeting, October 14-16, 2013

The Host Hotel – **The Marriott Courtyard**, Spanish Fort, Alabama

Schedule

October 14th, Monday

- 1:00 - 4:00 **Registration** at the Marriott Courtyard Lobby Area
Hospitality Suite at the Marriott Courtyard
- 2:30 **Board Meeting** 2:30 at the Marriott Courtyard Conference Room
- 5:00 **Auction Dinner and Reception** 5:00 Reception, 6:00 Dinner at the Daphne Civic Center, Daphne, Alabama

October 15th, Tuesday

- 8:30-8:45 am **Registration** at the 5-Rivers Delta Resource Center Theatre
- 8:45 am **Educational Program and Meeting** will be at 5-Rivers Delta Resource Center's Theatre Building, Spanish Fort, Alabama.
Business Meeting – Lynn Vicknair, President, GCCS
Speaker - Hank Burch, Director of the 5-Rivers Resource Center
Speaker – Buddy Lee, Nationally Known Hybridizer and Horticulturist
Speaker – American Camellia Society Representatives
Lunch at 5-Rivers Delta Resource Center's Reception Building
- 1:15 - 4:00 pm **Tours**
Options – Delta Tourist Boat Tour from 5-Rivers (\$20, payable on site)
Options – Delta Wildlife Museum at 5-Rivers Museum Building
Options – Camellia Garden Tour at Al and Vickie Baugh's camellia garden, Spanish Fort
- 5:00 pm **Banquet and President's Reception**
5:00 Reception, 6:00 Dinner at the Daphne Civic Center, Daphne, Alabama
Speaker – Donnie Barrett, Owner of Fairhope Tea Farm, and Director of Fairhope History Museum

October 16th, Wednesday - **Tour** of James Smelley's greenhouses starting 8:30 am throughout day at greenhouses in Agricola, Mississippi

The **Annual Raffle** winning ticket will be announced at the Banquet. A Boehm Porcelain Camellia will be sponsored by Robert Moore Christmas Shop for the raffle.

Silent Auction items viewing and bidding will take place at 5 – Rivers Delta Resource Center and the President's Reception. Winners of items are responsible for payment and removal of items by the end of the Banquet.

GULF COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING

OCTOBER, 14TH AND 15TH 2013
SPANISH FORT, ALABAMA

HOTEL INFORMATION

Host Hotel, Marriott Courtyard
13000 Cypress Way, Spanish Fort, Alabama 36527

The hotel is located at 1-10 intersection exiting onto Hwy 90 going north/west. This is the same intersection as the Pro-Bass Shopping Complex. This is also the exit nearest Mobile Bay; on the eastern side of the Bay.

Room Rates: King or Queen Rooms; mini-refrigerator/microwave available by request .

October 13th- \$89 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX (breakfast at your own choice)

October 14th- \$89 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX, PLUS \$13.42 PER PERSON
FOR CONFERENCE GROUP BREAKFAST BUFFET;
BREAKFAST WILL BE CHARGED TO ROOM (UNLESS
HOTEL IS NOTIFIED 7 DAYS IN ADVANCE BY
INDIVIDUAL TO DECLINE BREAKFAST OPTION). The
breakfast group rate included tax and gratuity.

October 15th - \$89 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX (Breakfast at your own choice)

Making Reservations:

Call local numbers at hotel, and identify reservations with Gulf Coast Camellia Society.

Call 1-251-370-1161 or free local toll 1-888-720-1250

*****Make reservations on or before 5:00pm, September 1, 2013**

72 Hour cancellation policy

Additional Planning Information:

Bringing plants to Monday night Auction Dinner?

Leave at hotel or take to Daphne Civic Center after 3:30 or Call Al Baugh 251-895-9932

Bringing items for Silent Auction?

Bring items to 5-Rivers Resource Center on Tuesday morning by 8:30.

Let Florence Crowder know of item in advance for planning,
florence.crowder@cox.net.

Camellia Quiz

A number of camellia species are grown in our region. Match the following names with the pictures below. Answers on page 29.

A. *c. roseiflora*, B. *c. pitardii* var *Yunnanica*; C. *c. chrysantha*; D. *c. fraterna*; E. *c. granthamiana*; F. *c. olifera*.



#1 _____



#2 _____



#3 _____



#4 _____



#5 _____



#6 _____

December National Meeting of American Camellia Society and National Camellia Show

Planning for the national meeting of the American Camellia Society (ACS) and its national camellia show here in December has been top priority for the Pensacola Camellia Club (PCC) for the past year. Roger Vinson is past president of both ACS and PCC. He, along with the PCC Board and president Paul Bruno, has made extensive plans in preparation for this event.

The ACS meeting will begin on Wednesday, December 11 and end on Saturday December 14 with the National Camellia Show at First Baptist Church in downtown Pensacola and a banquet at Hilton Hotel on Pensacola Beach. The camellia show and plant sale at First Baptist Church is free and public is cordially invited. Since many of the out of town attendees are camellia enthusiasts, they are expected to bring choice blooms for the competition, so this will truly be a national exhibit.

Paul Bruno, PCC president said, "Having the national meeting of ACS and the national camellia show for Pensacola is a great opportunity to show our visitors our outstanding attractions.

Bruno continued, "On Wednesday, December 11, visitors will be offered tours of the National Museum of Naval Aviation, historic Fort Barrancas and historic downtown Pensacola. On Thursday

an all-day bus tour will include a visit to the UWF's Camellia Garden and Japan House for tea ceremony; nurseryman John Davy's home and camellia garden in Pace for a luncheon and a tour of Panhandle Growers Nursery; and finally, Veterans' Park and Viet Nam Memorial Replica—The Wall.

Friday will include instructional and committee meetings with optional free time for self-guided tours of Fort Pickens and historic downtown Pensacola presented by GoRetro Tours of Pensacola. Saturday's camellia show will be the highlight of the weekend and open, free to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. Banquets will be held on Pensacola Beach at Hampton Inn on Friday evening and at Hilton Hotel on Saturday evening."

Roger Vinson, Past President of ACS, said, "At the national level, ACS is excited about having its national meeting and show here and we want to give our visitors opportunity to see this wonderful city. My thanks go out to the club members and other citizens who are working hard to present the best possible experience for our attendees."

For further information see: www.pensacolacamelliclub.com or call Norman Vickers, PCC Secretary at 850-484-9183.



Camellia Websites

American Camellia Society

www.americancamellias.org

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

Baton Rouge Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/brcamellias

Birmingham Camellia Society

www.birminghamcamellias.com

Brookhaven Camellia Society

www.homerrichardson.com/camellia

Camellia Society of North Florida

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html

Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX

www.coushattacamelliasociety.org

Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety

Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society

www.afn.org/-camellia/

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.gulfcoastcamellias.org

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society

Mobile Camellia Society

www.mobilecamellia.org

Northshore Camellia Society

www.northshorecamelliasociety.org

Pensacola Camellia Club

www.pensacolacamellioclub.com

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



In the Autumn Garden

By Art Landry

Start disbudding to encourage larger blooms and healthier plants. All buds other than the terminal bud should be broken off. Also, all double terminal buds should be reduced to one. You will be rewarded with larger flowers and less partially open or deformed blooms. And fewer spent blooms to pick up later in the season!

The weather can get rather dry in the Autumn. Remember that your plants need one inch of water each week (more if they are under big trees or in containers). Camellia roots like to "dry out" between good soakings. Container-grown plants need watering more frequently than those growing in the ground. The frequency will depend on the soil mix used in the container but generally speaking 2-3 times per week will work well.

Fall spraying for scale can be done at this time, since the really hot weather has been replaced by milder weather. Use oil emulsion spray like ultra-fine oil and cover the infested leaves well especially the underside. A follow-up spraying can be done in a couple weeks for severely infested plants. Neem Oil is also very effective as a preventive. It makes the plant unappealing to insects and they will starve to death rather than eat the plant. One product containing Neem Oil is Triple Action marketed by Green

Light - and sold as rose spray or concentrate.

Gib every week or so to get earlier, larger blooms throughout the blooming season. Gibbing is best done from September through December. Figure on about 60 days from gibbing to average blooming.

Collect and use the many leaves falling now. Collect from your friends and neighbors (some even put them out for the garbage!) to get enough leaves and pine straw for a layer several inches thick around your camellia plants. Covering the leaves with pine straw will keep them in place and look good, too.

You can choose to compost some of the leaves to use in your potting or planting mix. Select a place to build a compost pile where you can layer leaves, grass clippings, vegetable scraps, and other organic residue to form the compost pile. A mix of leaves and other organic matter works best. Watering regularly and adding fertilizer and some soil will hasten the process and improve the condition of the compost. After turning the pile several times over a period of time, you will get a quantity of rich, natural compost which can be added to your garden soil or container soil mix. Your plants will express their appreciation by rewarding you with healthier foliage and better blooms.

Camellia Show Dates 2013-2014

12 & 13 October 2013 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry Georgia.

9 November 2013 - Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society

Westwood Retirement Resort, 1001 N. Mar-Walt Drive, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

9 & 10 November 2013 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Byron Municipal Complex, Byron, GA

23 November 2013 - Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Lyman Community Center, 13472 Highway 49, Gulfport. MS (4 mi. North of I 10)

7 December 2013- Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA

Saint Margaret Mary Gym, Robert Road, Slidell, LA.

14 December 2013 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL

ACS Convention and National Camellia Show

First Baptist Church, 500 North Palafox, Pensacola, FL.

21 December 2013 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA

St. Scholastica's Academy Gym., 122 North Massachusetts St, Covington, LA.

? January 2014 - Gainesville Camellia Society, Gainesville, FL.

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 Southwest 58th Drive, Gainesville, FL.

11 January 2014 - Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA—To Be Announced

18 & 19 January 2014 – Camellia Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL

Colonial Mall, Bel Air, Mobile, AL.

18 January 2014 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX.

First Christian Church Fellowship Building, 3500 North Loop 336 West.

1 & 2 February 2014—Brookhaven Camellia Society, Brookhaven, MS

Brookhaven Recreation Department, Highway 51 N.

8 February 2014 - Southeast Alabama Camellia Club, Dothan, AL

First Methodist Church Family Center, 1380 West Main St., Dothan, AL

9 & 10 February 2014 – Baton Rouge Camellia Society, Baton Rouge, LA

Rural Life Museum, Essen Lane at I-10, Baton Rouge, LA.

15 February 2013 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Huntsville, TX.

Gibbs Ranch Conference Center, Sam Houston State University, 113 Fraser Road.

22 & 23 February 2014 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Fort Valley, GA

Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley, GA.

If you have a show date or judging school date that you would like listed in *The Camellian*, please send them to the editor at the address on the inside back cover.



Editor's Note

By Kenn Campbell



I hope you all enjoyed the article by my dear friend Duncan Beaton about camellias in Scotland. Most people don't realize that camellias can be grown in Scotland as it is at the same latitude as Newfoundland. Now you know. Duncan is an engineer with Rolls-Royce in Glasgow, but his passion is the history of people, places and things in Argyll, Scotland, where you can find him most week-ends at his cottage in his home town of Furnace.

And also thanks to another dear friend Trent James who put in many long hours of research digging out the material for his in-depth article about E. A. McIlhenny and his camellias. It is surprising how many camellias McIlhenny introduced.

Many thanks too to those who made generous contributions to the Endowment fund. This will help the fund grow to support the Society's publications.



C. japonica seedling 'LSU #5'

This pink and white variegated peony form flower with a white skirt, like that on the left, was developed at L.S.U in the 1960s. It was never named or registered because most of the flowers had irregular pink and white variegations like that on the right.

Camellia Quiz Answers

1. *c. Olifera*
2. *c. pitardii* var. *Yunnanica*
3. *c. chrysantha*
4. *c. granthamiana*
5. *c. roseiflora*
6. *c. fraterna*

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join



C. japonica "Mrs. D.W. Davis" 1954, by D. W. Davis,
Seffner, FL



C. japonica "Alta Gavin" 1962, by J. E. Gavin,
Shreveport, LA



C. japonica "Charlotte Bradford" 1950, by Wayside
Nursery, Ocean Springs, MS



C. japonica "R. L. Wheeler" 1949, by Wheeler
Central Georgia Nursery, Macon, GA

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

Annual dues for membership in the Gulf Coast Camellia Society are \$10.00 for individuals and \$12.00 for couples. Membership runs from October through September each year. Life Membership is available at \$200 for individual and \$240 for couples. Included with membership are four issues of *The Gulf Coast Camellian* which contains articles on all aspects of camellia culture as well as serving as an exchange of news and information between and for members. *The Camellian* also contains reports of the Society's operations, minutes of meetings, financial reports, show news, and other subjects of interest to our members.

To join, send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, along with your payment to *Gulf Coast Camellia Society, in care of Michael Ruth, 726 High Plains Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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C. japonica "Tomorrow's Dawn" and "Tomorrow" blooming on same stem.