

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

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Photo by Randolph Maphis

Camellia japonica 'Cile Watford' Homeyer 2009

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The Gulf Coast Camellian

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From the Cover



Camellia japonica 'Cile Watford' was originated by Dr. Walter Homeyer from Macon, GA. This bloom is a very pure white, medium size, rose form double. *Cile Watford* was named for a long time Tallahassee Camellia Society member named Charles Watford.

Hulyn Smith once said, "Dr. Homeyer was a master hybridizer and just a mighty fine camellia grower." Dr. Homeyer registered over 50 varieties including award winners such as Frank Houser, Edna Bass, and Terrell Weaver.

President's Message

Jim Dwyer
Foley, Alabama



The 2015 meeting was very enjoyable and informative. Thanks to the Andy Houdek and the New Orleans Club and all who helped to make it a success. The dinner at the Bridges on Monday night followed by the auction provided a very festive evening. On Tuesday, a continental breakfast followed by the business meeting and the second round of plant auctions made for a busy morning agenda. After lunch at the Epic Buffet, the educational sessions commenced with ACS President Jim Campbell and ACS Executive Director Celeste Richard bringing us up to date on proposed changes to ACS bylaws that would create more involvement of local clubs in ACS activities. Florence Crowder then informed us about activities at the ICS Congress in Portugal and Spain. The educational sessions concluded with Dr. Allen Owings providing information to help us improve our gardening practices. The evening banquet and talk by Buddy Lee on how to expand the normal limits of gardening made for an enjoyable conclusion to our 2015 meeting. Those who did not make it to the meeting missed out on two days of entertainment, education, and enlightenment.

On a sadder note, I was sorry to hear of the passing of Max Mizell only a few days after I was talking to him

at our meeting. Max was always smiling and always cheerful. His love of camellias was contagious and inspired everyone. Max and his wife Marie provided many years of service to the camellia world. I will miss them both.



Jim Dwyer and Max Mizell at the GCCS 2015 annual meeting.

The shows are beginning. Check the dates on page 26 or the ACS website, gather your blooms, and go to the shows.

Let Kenn Campbell know what is going on in your local club so he can put in the *Camellian* and again, please share your comments and suggestions with me.



Scenes from the Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual Meeting 2015

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual Meeting convened on October 19th and 20th at the Hollywood Casino, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.



Members and guests gathered for dinner at the Bridges Restaurant followed by the first part of the auction..

At left: Leo Brown of Mobile, Jimmy Walker of Mobile, and Vickie and Al Baugh, of Spanish Fort.

Below: Carol Comber of Pensacola, Jim Campbell of Covington, and Ruby Campbell of Baton Rouge.



Above: Della and Mike Pigott of Sulphur La.



Right: Joan Blanchard of Pensacola, Judy Kerr of Pensacola and Susan Hultgren of Baton Rouge.



Luncheon Speakers:
Dr. Allen Owings,
Director of the
Hammond Research
Station; Florence
Crowder, Member ICS
Conservation Working
Group; Jim Campbell,
President American
Camellia Society; and
Celeste Richard,
Executive Director
American Camellia
Society.



Banquet speaker Buddy Lee, developer of the 'Encore' azaleas.

A portion of the plants
ready to be auctioned at the
banquet. The auction of
donated plants, which is an
important fund raiser to
support the Society, raised
\$3396 and the silent auction
another \$841.



From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson
Brookhaven, Mississippi



Reading Instead of Working in The Garden

Since we had three months of over ninety degree weather here in Brookhaven, I have been a lot more industrious in reading about gardening than actually gardening. According to some family members I do that anyway. Lately I have acquired all the gardening books of one of my very favorite English writers, Vita Sackville-West. For many years she wrote for several magazines, including *Country Life*. She was a noted writer and a poet and I have some of her novels, too. Fortunately, someone put most of her gardening columns into several books and they are now quite widely available thanks to the Internet. In one of these columns she referred to a box of labels from dead plants that she had kept. Her gardener called it "The Morgue." We, too, have a "morgue." We try to salvage all the tags of the camellias we have lost and make notes on the ones who reappear in the morgue and avoid buying more of those. The ones lost to misfortune, deer, horses and other causes we will try to replace. It seems that deer can eat the metal tags with no ill effects, rather like grit that chickens eat, I guess!

Back to more pleasant topics, recently we went to a "tea tasting" at the Great Mississippi Tea Company, founded three years ago by Jason Macdonald. Nigel, the renowned tea expert was there and a protege of his from Scotland. There were people from Mississippi State University on hand and other guests from near and

far. I think we were the only non-experts there. This was a really fascinating opportunity to learn about tea and the differences in taste. It basically depends on how the leaves are processed. We were able to watch the leaves being processed and taste the tea after it was made from different processes. Having grown up in this state only drinking sweet tea, probably starting in my bottle, the differences were amazing. This was unsweetened tea, too, and was really delicious. I'm sure you have heard that sweet tea is the "house wine of the south." When we moved up north the first time it was a nasty shock that they did not have sweet iced tea available at any time, summer or winter. We could get iced tea, but it was definitely not sweetened. I like hot tea, but only when the weather is cold. Anyway, as the man in the commercial said, "I digress." This is supposed to be about camellias and the "sinensis" is a camellia.

Unfortunately we are not going to be able to attend the convention in Biloxi this year, some other obligations had already been scheduled and were not to be canceled. We will really miss it, though. We are still watering the camellias heavily so we might have some for the early shows.

I did learn a lot from the last issue of *The Camellian*. Loved the way Norman Vickers gets rid of vines in his plants. Also Kenn Campbell's method of growing seed. Kenn tells me I do have a friend who will share cuttings of the hard to find camellias. I also love Florence Crowder's article on efforts to find and preserve historic

camellias. At our show we set up a table of the “unknowns” so that they can be identified by the judges when they are through with their judging. Most of the time most of these are identified by the end of the show. So far I don’t think we have found many rare ones, but we can hope. I

do encourage all of us to keep an eye out in some of our older neighborhoods for these when we can. This is all for right now, y’all have a good time at the ACS convention.



Thanks to the Donors

Thanks to the following people who have made contributions to the Camellian Trust Fund this past year:

Al & Vickie Baugh
Alfred & Renae Breeland
Allen & Patricia Mocklin
Ann & Bill Dodson
Arthur & Eva Hoover
Bette & Dick Hooton
Bette & Dick Hooton in memory of Max Mizell
Carolyn Dickson
Celeste Richard
Chris Smith
Claudette Shelfer
David & Mary Mizell
Donna Welch
Gaye Lehr
Gerald & Sharron Phares
Greer Thompson
James & Eileen Dwyer
Jim Campbell
Jimmy Walker
Joan Blanchard
Joe & Laura Holmes
John & Dinh Swanson
John Causey
Joseph & Hilma Jenus
Joyce & Andy Houdek
Ken & Kay Clark
Kenn & Ruby Campbell
Larry Heard
Lauren Landry

Leo Broders Jr.
Leo Brown
Lorraine & Neal Pendleton
Lynn Vicknair
Mana Chafin in memory of Dr. Fred Lee
Max Mizell
Michael Jinks
Mike & Ann Ruth
Nell Eubanks
Nickolas Piazza Jr.
Pat Phillips
Patti Perkins
Paul & Joan Cooper
Peter & Lynnette Soules in memory of Nova Mauthe
Rebecca & Bob Christian
Robert Moore
Rodney Lowe
Roger & Ellen Vinson
Roger & Linda Roy
Rosamay Davis in memory of her husband Greg Davis
Susan & Allen Bradley
Susan Hultgren
Susan Moran
Trent James
Walter & Alice Creighton
Will Mangham



A Look at Some Camellia Species

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA

Over 250 species of the genus *Camellia* have been identified and named. Natives of Southeast Asia, 80% of them originated in China and many are not found outside China. Commercially important plants include the tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*), the source of green and black tea, and the tea oil plant (*Camellia oleifera*), from which oil is extracted from the seed and used for cooking, cosmetics, medicine and industrial purposes. *Camellia japonica*, *Camellia sasanqua* and *Camellia reticulata* are prominent ornamental species used in the landscape. The majority of garden camellias are cultivars and hybrids developed from these plants.

Although they don't receive much attention, many camellia species are grown in the Gulf Coast Region. The blooms range in size from very small like *C. sinensis* to very large specimens such as *C. gigantocarpa*. They come in a variety of colors with various shades of red, pink, white, purple and yellow. Some are fragrant. Many are used for hybridizing, such as *C. salunensis* for 'Donation' (*C. salunensis* x *C. japonica* 'Donckelari') and *C. nitidissima* for yellow flowers like 'Kagioghi' (*nitidissima* x *japonica* 'Silver Chalis').

Let's take a look at a few of them:



Camellia fraterna - flowers, small, white or whitish lilac and fragrant. Leaves pointed - elliptic 2½" x 1¼" with serrations and black tipped. Grows into a tall shrub. Origin - Central China. This one, growing in my yard in Baton Rouge, is about 60 years old and is 17 feet tall. (The wall in the background is eight feet high.) On a sunny winter day it is a great



pleasure to stand under it and enjoy its delightful fragrance.



Camellia azalea - Flower, bright red, single, blooms summer to autumn and can bloom continuously. Leaves long and narrow. This species is being used by hybridizers attempting to get continuous or long season cultivars.



Camellia gigantocarpa - Flowers, white, large (4 ½"); small tree (16' x 30'); very large seed pod (4" x 4 ½"). From southern China. This one was grown by Jim Campbell in Covington, LA.



Camellia dubia - Flowers, white or white lightly flushed pink, fragrant and about 1½" in diameter; leaves sharp pointed and varying in size on any single branch, 2 ½" x 1 ¼"; a shrub from Southeastern China. The bloom buds form all along the branches. This plant is from a cutting from Vi Stone in Baton Rouge. A colorful winter landscape shrub.



Camellia granthamiana - Flowers, white, very large; leaves oblong-elliptic with pointed apex, leathery, shallow serrations, 4" x 1½"; the only known existing wild plant is now a small tree in Hong Kong. This graft is from a scion from a plant grown by Art Landry's father in Houma, LA.



Camellia grijsii - Flowers, white, single, sometimes fragrant; leaves elliptic and sharply pointed, edges sharply serrulate, 3 ¼" x 1 ¼". A shrub up to 9'. Eastern China. There is also a formal double variety named 'Zhenzhucha' introduced by Nuccio's. *Camellia grijsii* is related to *C. sasanqua*, *C. oleifera* and *C. kissii* and is used for a high-quality oil production. It was collected in 1861 in Fujian by C.F.M. de Grijs. An old time favorite in the southern states with many varieties, that range from white to pink to red and all combinations thereof. It is available from Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, NC, and others.



Camellia japonica - Flowers rosy red, medium sized; leaves elliptic-oblong with sharp apex 3 ¼" x 1 ½"; a shrub growing into a tree to 50 feet; Japan, Korea and Eastern China. This picture is the original species from which all our beautiful japonicas descend.



***Camellia nitidissima* variety nitidissima** (formerly called *C. crysantha*) - Flower, small single to semidouble, golden yellow with shiny textured petals; leaves similar to *C. granthamiana* but not as large nor ridges as deep; small tree or large shrub (6' x 10'); Southern China. This one is used by hybridizers for breeding yellow flowered camellias. This one was exhibited at the Orlando Camellia Show in 2008.



Camellia kissi - Flowers white sometimes fragrant; leaves elliptic, pointed, serrulate for one-quarter to two-thirds the length from the apex, 2 7/8" x 1"; a shrub growing to a tree up to 40 feet; Northeast India, Nepal, Burma, Southern China, Island of Hainan, and Viet Nam.

selected for centuries in China and is the source of the beautiful Reticulata Hybrids of today such as 'Frank Houser Var.'



Reticulata hybrid 'Frank Houser Var.'



Camellia reticulata - Flowers, rose colored more than 3" in diameter; leaves broad elliptic with pointed apex, edges serrulate, 4 1/2" x 1 7/8". A loosely branched shrub becoming a tree up to 50'. Grown in thickets and open pine forests at altitudes of 6000' to 9000', Southern China. This species has been bred and



Camellia oleifera - Flowers, white, fragrant, elliptic, serrulate, apex pointed. 2 1/2" x 1 1/8". A shrub becoming a small tree up to 22' high. China, Vietnam, Laos, Burma, India and Thailand. The oil pressed from the seed of this species is widely used in cooking, cosmetics, medicine and industrial uses. Tea oil has an oleic acid content of 85.3% which helps reduce bad cholesterol. In 1999, John M. Ruter of the University of Georgia Department of Horticulture initiated a project to evaluate *C. oleifera* as a commercial oil seed crop for the southeast U.S. So far results indicate an annual production of 3.0 kg fresh weight of fruit per plant is possible.



Camellia pitardii* variety *yunannica - Flowers, deep pink to white, 5-6 petals, 2" - 2 ¾". Flowering January to March. Leaves oblong-elliptic to narrow-elliptic, 2 ¼" x 4 ¼" long and ¾" - 1 ¼" wide. This one is growing in the garden of Bill Stracener in Baton Rouge.



Camellia rosaeflora - Flowers, about 1 ¼", pinkish rose; leaves elliptic, bluntly pointed, 2 ¼" x 7/8". A shrub becoming a small tree. Habitat unknown but probably China. This one was exhibited at the Baton Rouge Camellia Society Show in 2006 by Garland Avants of Prairieville, LA.



Camellia saluenensis - Flowers, white to white flushed with pink or pale rose pink to deep rose pink with diameters up to 2"; leaves elliptic, narrow and pointed, 2" x ¾". A very compact much branched shrub growing to 15'. Southern China. Mr. J. C. Williams of Cornwall England introduced a series of *saluenensis* x *japonica* hybrids in the 1940s which are generally known as Williamsii Hybrids and they are widely grown. A great many other *saluenensis* hybrids have ensued.



Camellia sinensis - Flowers, white; leaves elliptic with rounded apex, size variable according to the cultivar, maximum reported 5 ¾" x 2". These leaves constitute the tea of commerce. A shrub growing into a tree 53' but kept pruned to about 3' when grown for tea production. China. In the 1800s a commercial tea plantation was established in Charleston, SC, and still produces and markets a fine tea today. Plantations have recently been established in Mississippi and Alabama.





CAMELLIA TRIVIA

Second in the “Did You Know” series:
“Camellias in Fashion”

By Ruby G. Campbell

Did You Know. . . ?

Camellias are a symbol for the Chanel fashion house’s haute couture, a tradition started by Coco Chanel herself. Gabrielle ‘Coco’ Chanel (1883-1971) fell head over heels for the camellia after one was given to her by her English born polo-playing lover, Capt. Arthur “Boy” Capel (1881-1919). She immediately began pinning silk versions of the camellia to her lapels, her hair and the blossoms decorated a black-and-gold-lacquered screen in her apartment.



Coco Chanel adored this flower for its almost geometrical roundness and the regular perfection and classical order of its pure white petals. It was the white camellia that has become her emblem, and the brand’s signature. The camellia also appealed to Chanel’s taste of provocation due to its reference as the “forbidden flower.” In the early 1900s the camellia was more than a flower: it was an often shocking and forbidden symbol of seduction, flirtatiousness, and the exotic.

Without perfumes or thorns, the camellia seduces by its simplicity. Thus, it should come as no surprise that one of the most fiercely independent women of her time adopted it as her symbol.

Chanel did not simply take the flower in its exact shape and use it as an



Chanel stylized camellia

accessory; she reinterpreted it, and made the lines completely her own. A stylized camellia embroidered on a blouse can be found as far back as 1922 and shortly thereafter the camellia started making appearances on scarves and dresses, either interwoven subtly or strikingly as a focal point. Slowly (and thanks solely to Coco), the camellia shifted from a provocative symbol to the representation of the style and spirit of its wearer.

In Southeast Asia, where the bloom originated, the camellia represents longevity. This is most appropriate as a symbol for Chanel considering her nearly eighty-eight year life span. Born in a poorhouse in Saumur, in the Loire Valley

of France, to unwed parents, Chanel survived an impoverished childhood and strict convent education. Her mother died of “poverty, pregnancy and pneumonia” when Gabrielle was a child of eleven, and her father placed her in a convent in the village of Aubazine. The difficulties of her early life inspired her to pursue a radically different lifestyle, first on the stage, where she acquired the nickname “Coco,” and then as a milliner.

At age 23, she was living at a boarding house in Moulins when she met Étienne Balsan, an ex-cavalry officer, who was also a wealthy textile heir and owner of Château Royallieu near Compiègne,



Coco Chanel with camellia inlaid on screen'

France. She moved in with him in a beautiful wooded area known for equestrian paths and hunting grounds and enjoyed a lifestyle of luxury and fast gratification. It was during this period that she began designing hats, initially as a hobby.

Two years later in 1908, Coco began a nine-year affair with Balsan's friend, the above-mentioned “Boy” Capel, a wealthy ship-owner, and self-made man who financed Chanel's first shop and installed her in Parisian apartment. Capel is rumored to have deeply influenced Coco's fashion style. His blazers inspired her to

put a squared, masculine touch on classic suit designs. Even the whiskey decanter he carried led to the bottle design for the famous Chanel No. 5 fragrance.

And even here, Coco's fragrance was unique: “a woman's perfume, with the scent of a woman,” as she liked to call it. Created like a haute couture dress, Chanel N°5 was the first perfume to stand out as an abstraction. Instead of using only one scent such as rose, jasmine or lilac which were the fashionable fragrances of that time, no dominant scent could be distinguished from among the eighty ingredients that composed it. Her perfumer, Ernest Beaux, mixed natural essences with synthetic products to enhance all their freshness and thus evoke a mysterious flower.

Supposedly Capel proposed to Chanel and she refused, wanting instead to wait until she was financially independent although she certainly hoped to settle down with him at a later time. However, it was not to be. Although Capel was never faithful to Coco during their nine year affair and he ended up marrying an English aristocrat in 1918, their romantic relationship continued until his death in an automobile accident in 1919. This was a devastating event for Chanel. Capel left Chanel £40,000 in his will, which allowed her to move into a new villa in Garches, a suburb of Paris. Until her death on 10 January 1971, she remained steadfast that Arthur Capel was the love of her life.

Coco Chanel honored Capel's memory in the way that was natural to her. While grieving for him she began wearing black, and was said to have told a friend that the world would mourn with her. Coco designed “the little black dress,” which she introduced in 1926. The little black dress was instantly a hit, available only in black, and has been the epitome of simple elegance since. In 1926, American

Vogue likened Chanel's "little black dress" to the Ford, alluding to its almost universal popularity as a fashion basic. In fact, the concept of the dress suitable for day and evening did become both a staple for Chanel throughout subsequent seasons and a classic piece of twenty-first century women's wear.

Chanel's personal life — including rumors and speculations about her love affairs — have grown almost as timeless as her fashion designs. Even today, a fair bit of mystery lingers on when biographers discuss her personal relationships. The stories about some of her more famous friends and lovers have kept the imagination going for decades. Chanel allegedly had affairs with a number of influential men, too numerous to mention here. Perhaps the most famous affair in Chanel's life was with the Duke of Westminster,

Hugh Richard Arthur Grosvenor, known to his friends as "Bendor." During their ten year affair he constantly presented her with lavish gifts including artwork, extravagant jewelry, and even a home in Mayfair. He also gave her the parcel of land

near Monte Carlo where Coco built a large luxurious villa called "La Pausa." Rumors have it that the Duke ordered all the lampposts in Westminster to be engraved with two C's for Coco's initials alongside

a large "W." Chanel, however, was aware that her humble origin would prohibit her from marrying into an aristocratic family, but she chose to ignore that fact. When asked why she did not marry the Duke of Westminster, she stated: "There have been several Duchesses of Westminster. There is only one Chanel."

Coco Chanel never married. She died in her apartment at the Ritz Hotel on January 10, 1971, at the age of 87. At the time, she was working on her fashion collection for the spring fashion shows later that month. Her friends stated that nothing prior to Coco's death indicated she was ill until a hotel chambermaid found her and called a physician. Coco's death came peacefully but the cause of death was not determined.

In May 1998, Coco Chanel's affair with the camellia was literally brought to



"Imaginary Garden of Coco Chanel" at the 1998 Chelsea Flower Show. Exquisite and serene, the garden encapsulates all things French and Chanel, with a gleaming figurine and beautifully clipped hedges, and adorned with a white camellia, Coco's favourite flower and now a Chanel trademark.

life at the Chelsea Flower Show. Karl Lagerfeld, a German fashion designer, artist, and photographer, and head designer and creative director of the

Continued on page 18

Are You Insane?

Find Out: Take the Camellia Insanity Quiz

By J. D. Thomerson, Valdosta, GA.

If you have ever had a meal at a Cracker Barrel restaurant (and who living or visiting in the Southeast has not), you have surely noticed the small wooden triangular games that sit on every table that allow you to jump little toothpick sized pegs over one another removing the one that you jump over. You begin with all the small holes on the game board filled with pegs except one and you keep jumping pegs and removing the ones you jump until you cannot jump over anymore. If you have never been to a Cracker Barrel or can't recall what I am talking about then I think you need to stop at a Cracker Barrel one day and play this game. The goal is to only leave one peg on the wooden game board or if you are really good you only leave one peg in the exact center hole of the game. Let me warn you – the game can get addictive. It is much harder to only leave one peg than you might think. In fact, there is a grading scale printed on this game describing a person's intelligence level based on how many pegs they leave on the board. Here is the grading scale:

- One Peg = You're a Genius
- Two Pegs = You're Pretty Smart
- Three Pegs = You're Just Average
- Four Pegs = You're Just Plain Dumb
- Five Pegs or more = You're an Ignoramus

I am embarrassed to tell you that I have played this game many times and on several occasions been declared an "Ignoramus." Usually, I score in the "Just

Average" category and only on one or two occasions that I can recall was I ever a "Genius."



This peg board game got me thinking about the insanity level of the typical camellia grower or "Camellian" as we often call one another. When Jerry Selph visited my yard one day and saw the hundreds of potted camellias I had placed in my neighbors back yard because there is no room left to plant them in my yard he said (and I quote) "Oh, you're sick." Now, to a "Non-Camellian" this would be an insult, but not to a camellia addict. Someone telling you that you are sick is basically telling them that you are officially a member of the Camellia Nut Club. I was honored by Jerry telling me that I was sick because believe me, he is sicker than I am.

Being that I am a teacher by vocation I decided to create a quick quiz so other camellia folks can determine if they are "sick" and if they are, how sick. To take this quiz you simply need to keep track of how many times you would say "YES" to each of the following 21 questions.

Ignoramus: a person who does not know much: an ignorant or stupid person.

Be Honest and Here We Go:

1. Do you have several written lists of camellias you want to buy, graft, or air-layer in various locations around your home?
2. Do you get excited when someone mentions a good new fertilizer product?
3. Can you rattle off fifty or more camellia varieties in five minutes or less?
4. Have you lost track of how many camellias and the varieties you actually own?
5. Have you ever debated whether Kanjiro, Kumagai Nagoya, Hongluzhen, Eqao, or some other variety was the best rootstock for grafting?
6. Have you ever dug up and thrown away or grafted on a perfectly nice camellia variety to make room for a new variety you have never even seen bloom?
7. Have you ever lied to your wife/husband or significant other about purchasing a new camellia or hidden a new purchase from their view?
8. Have you traveled more than 1 ½ hours to attend a camellia show?
9. Have you ever decided you did not want to go on a vacation trip (or cut a vacation trip short) so you could make sure your camellias were well watered or maintained?
10. Have you ever had a dream about a camellia bloom or a camellia show?
11. Do you have old ACS yearbooks, journals, nomenclature books, or other camellia books scattered around your living room or den, car, office, or bathroom?
12. Have you taken a camellia cutting from a vacant lot, public park, or unknown person's yard?
13. Have you ever promised someone or yourself that you have all the camellias you want or will ever plant only to break that promise months later?
14. Do you have a spare refrigerator just for storing gibberellic acid, camellia cuttings or scions, chemicals, and/or camellia blooms?
15. Have you ever asked for a camellia plant as a birthday or Christmas gift?
16. Do you have two or more plastic or styrofoam storage bins or coolers dedicated for camellia blooms?
17. Have you ever called or asked a friend to come to your yard to look at one of your camellia blooms?
18. Have you ever taken twice as many photos of camellia blooms in a given year than you took of family members and friends?
19. If you made a most hated list, spider mites, scale, dieback, and petal blight would all be in the top ten?
20. Have you tried three or more successful methods of grafting camellias but continue to look for an even better method?



When it deals with Camellias are you Insane or just Crazy?

Bonus Question:

21. Do you have at least one greenhouse used mainly for camellias? NOTE: add another point if you have a second greenhouse or wish you had made greenhouse #1 much larger.

as many camellia shows as possible, join the American Camellia Society, get to know as many other “Camellians” as possible, especially those that are “Sick” and “Insane.” If you will do these things you too will soon be complimented by a

Camellia Insanity Grading Scale:
(Based upon the number of Yes answers above)

0-3 = You're Basically a Normal Person

4-7 = You're in Danger of Getting Sick

8-12 = You're Sick - No Question About It

13 or more = You're Insane - There is No Doubt

Well, how sick are you? I am on the borderline between being “Sick” and being “Insane.” If you are a “Normal Person” or only in “Danger of Getting Sick” I encourage you to continue attending your local camellia club, go to

fellow camellia friend when they tell you, “Oh, you're sick.” And always remember, when it comes to the camellia hobby, crazy people have more fun.



Camellias in Fashion continued from page 15

fashion house Chanel as well as the Italian house Fendi and his own label fashion house, conceived the “Imaginary Garden of Coco Chanel,” and commissioned English garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith to design it in the Baroque style preferred by Coco. It was complete with greenery trained into the shape of the Chanel logo of interlaced Cs, and featured only white flowers, including hundreds of pure white camellia.

To achieve this was a feat of delaying nature. The camellia is not grown commercially as a cut flower. In England, it blooms briefly in late January and is only sold as small bushes. In order to create the garden, specially created greenhouses had to be set up in England and the USA to engineer the flowers so that they bloomed in May. Only the very best examples would make the grade for

the 170,000 odd visitors to the show. The entire hedged structure of the garden was grown for a year in advance in containers and then assembled on site like a jigsaw - the first time a garden was made in this way for Chelsea.

Today, the camellia is still an important part of the Chanel mystique. The now-iconic flower is still found on the garments of present-day celebrities, and it always features as a central theme in each season's jewelry collection.

Sources:

Alexandra Grashkina-Hristov. *Coco Chanel: A Biography of the World's Most Elegant Woman*.

Justine Picardine. *Coco Chanel: The Legend and the Life*.



In Memorium

DAVID NIHART

Sadly, on September 27, David Nihart, died unexpectedly in Mobile at age 64. He practiced law in the Mobile area 39 years.



He was past president of the Camellia Club of Mobile, and served as the Alabama Director of the American Camellia Society. He was a camellia judge in shows across the

country. He always enjoyed working with all types of flowers and photography.

David was President when I joined the Club in the early '90s. At the second meeting I attended, David gave me a one-year-old 'Black Magic' camellia he had grafted from his own plant. Years later, at our January Show, I showed him a lovely bloom from that gift. David reached into the bloom with the eraser end of his pencil and eased back the center petals to expose a flawless boss of brilliant golden stamens! That bloom won me the Dolores Oates Trophy thanks to David's tip. If you ever went to the now closed Roussos Restaurant during camellia time, you almost certainly saw a huge container with dozens of gorgeous camellia blooms floating in it - those were all David's blooms. All who have attended our Judges Reception the evening before our Show will have appreciated David's perennial contribution of liquid refreshments to that convivial gathering. We know everyone will raise a glass to him next January in appreciation of his many years of service

to our Club. David, you are and will be missed.

-Vera Curry.

MAX MIZELL

Maddox Wade "Max" Mizell passed away peacefully at his home in Metairie, La. on Saturday, October 24, 2015, at the age of 90.



Max was a member and past president of the Camellia Club of New Orleans and a member of the American Camellia Society, the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, the Ozone

Camellia Club, the Lion's Club of Metairie, and Sun Masonic Lodge No. 336.

Along with his beloved Marie and family, Max also loved Camellias. One of his proudest moments in life was receiving the American Camellia Society's "Tablet of Honor Award" jointly to Marie and him in January, during the society's national convention in Tallahassee, FL.

Despite Max's declining mobility, he remained active with Camellias. He attended the Gulf Coast Camellia Society's convention in Bay St. Louis, MS the week before his death, and upon his return home, Max spoke fondly of seeing his friends there. Max's attendance was possible only due to the extraordinary and greatly appreciated efforts of his companion, Mia Oakes. Max also proudly served in the United States Navy during World War II. I

AROUND THE REGION



Christi Hankins, PCC President, presents Certificate of Appreciation to Rita Perling.

Pensacola photo by Norman Vickers



VP Development Dr. Brendan Kelly discusses enhancement plans for UWF Camellia Garden with the Pensacola Camellia Club.



Attentive crowd at the PCC meeting



C. japonica 'Kumagai-Ngoya' is the favorite understock of some of the grafters in our region.



Ruby Campbell pins camellia pin she bought in the GCCS silent auction on lapel of Kenn's jacket.



Norman Vickers spotted this little fellow resting in the shade of one of his camellia leaves.

AROUND THE REGION

Camellia 1 to Camellia 2: On the Road to Mandalay

By Bette Hooton, Pensacola, FL



Here we are again, smack dab in the middle of THE SEASON. I mean, camellia season—now what season did you think I meant! And hopefully, glorious weather for all of the shows will prevail. As January and a new year float into view, South Florida and its ‘sugarplums’ make my husband’s eyes light up as never before. Or as they do every year at this time when he and Skip begin chattering on the phone like old ladies! About? Why, the early January pilgrimage and who will come and how many cars and where to spend the night and and. . .

It all started with Mark Crawford, the nurseryman from Valdosta. He and several others used to do a lot of grafting at Clarence Gordy’s place in south Florida because Gordy had the space. Mark allowed as how Dick ought to go down and visit. So Camellia 1 called Camellia 2, and off they went to visit with the Gordys. After lunch, unbeknownst to Dick, about ten ‘visitors’ that had grafted there began digging up the grafts to take home. Not being one to stand by and watch, Dick grabbed a shovel and started digging. Well, after the third time of hearing, “who wants this one,” Dick shouted, “Time Out!” He put down his shovel, shook his head confused and asked these titans of the camellia world, “What are the rules

here?” What an upstart they must have thought!

Then Dick was told that priority went to the Gordys and/or whoever had done the graft. If the graft wasn’t taken, then it went to whoever wanted it. And that was the year he came home with CG204 ‘Emberglow’ and ‘Awesome Blossom,’ now known as ‘Jim Smelley.’

That first trip has since grown into a pilgrimage for scion gathering. Camellia folks east of Pensacola travel west as far as Agricola, and those west of Pensacola travel east as far as Ocala and all stops in between.

In early 2015, the largest group traveled, each to Tallahassee, Quitman, and Ocala, then Pensacola to Mobile and Agricola.

But when the camellia world shifted with the loss of Clarence and Miss Lillian Gordy, so, too, did the trip. The plans for scion gathering will be different in 2016.

And please don’t call Dick or Skip or try to butter them up in any way for an invite. Almost everyone readily shares scions. Plan your own trip to visit the growers in your area, and remember to ask what scions YOU can bring for your hosts. I promise that you will find your own Mecca or Mandalay.





Hulyn Smith (seated) leads a group to visit Gordy's garden in south Florida.



Clarence Gordy, welcomes Roger Vinson, Jim Smelley, and Dick Hooton to his garden in 2012.



C. japonica 'Emberglow' 2012 Gordy



C. reticulata 'Jim Smelley' 2013 James and Elaine Smelley, Moss point. MS



Baton Rouge Camellia Society: An Active Enterprise

By Gerald Phares, BRCS President

The industrious members of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society (BRCS) officially kick off the camellia “season” in October with a picnic at Live Oak Plantation in Watson, the beautiful home place of Linda and Roger Roy. However, work has actually been on-going throughout the spring and summer as required by the seasonal requirements of the plants.

The club grows approximately 2,000 camellias per year at the LSU AgCenter and Botanic Gardens at the Burden farm. Some are own-root plants started in misting beds; others are grafted. Scions are collected from camellia growers from South Central United States and other camellia growing countries. Florence Crowder and Joe Holmes, members of the International Camellia Society, who bring cuttings from their trips, have discovered that cultivars of the same name from different countries have a few variations. Members are encouraged to grow different varieties for their own enjoyment as well as for others and to be a source of cuttings for propagation. Also, members who attend shows in the area find varieties not in the BRCS inventory, and often get the exhibitor to share cuttings for the next propagating season. This is our means of having approximately 1,000 varieties available.



Art Landry and Mike Pigott busy grafting.



Mike Ruth and Joe Holmes check new grafts in shade house #2 and uncover as needed.



One year grafts are grown off in shade house #1.



One of the mist beds for rooting cuttings.



Repotting cuttings



2 and 3 year old grafts and cuttings in shade house ready for sale.

The working group meets every Wednesday morning, with few exceptions, at the Burden Center to produce the wonderful plants that we offer for sale. Two or three days are set aside for rooting and the same for grafting. The rest of the year is spent on routine jobs such as weeding, repotting, watering, pruning, etc. A simple lunch of sandwich, cookies and other desserts is provided for the workers every week but occasionally a super lunch of etouffee or a casserole is served by one of the lovely ladies. Sometimes business is conducted at this time to discuss various projects with little parliamentary procedure.

The camellia plants thus produced are available for sale to members and the general public at all BRCS events, but especially at the annual camellia show. At the end of the growing year, 50% of the profit from the sale of the plants is given to Burden for the use of their facilities and other incurred expenses. From funds garnered by selling the camellia plants, the Baton Rouge Camellia Society has pledged \$1,000.00 a year for the past year, and the next four years to the American Camellia Society. In addition, it is policy that working members may choose plants from our inventory in return for their time and efforts.

One of the responsibilities of the Baton Rouge club is to maintain the varieties that make up the Higo, Oriental, and Stone collections located at the Baton Rouge AgCenter which were

donated by Stella Cooper, the daughter of Vi and Hank Stone. Varieties of pre-1900 registrations are soon to be planted in a new garden located in the arboretum at the center which will also be maintained by the Baton Rouge group. A grant was received by the AgCenter to allow for site preparation of the some 100 plants to be donated by Charles and Florence Crowder over a two-year period.

Each working member is given a responsibility to oversee, with the entire club assisting for major projects. The strength and success of any organization is the willingness and effort to maintain a friendly and cooperative attitude with each other. The strength of the BRCS is the wonderful participation of loyal, hardworking members. One member, Arthur Hoover, is a welder and mechanic who maintains various pieces of Burden's farm equipment to put it back in operation and tends to spraying when needed.

Mike Ruth collects the statistics as to where scions are from, who grafted them and the outcome. He is also responsible for inventory of the various plants grown from own root and grafting and of those plants ready to sell. Roger Roy is responsible for communications with the American Camellia Society. A team of members, headed by Trent James, goes to gardens where assistance is needed in identification of varieties or cultural problems. Dr. James is also currently conducting video interviews of local camellians. For several years Joe Holmes, Jim Campbell, and Florence Crowder have been attempting to identify the varieties at Avery Island and other area gardens. Rebecca Christian furnishes publicity of BRCS activities with the local newspaper, and Florence Crowder maintains the facebook page. President Gerald Phares is the instructor of the judging school sponsored by the BRCS

when requested and organizes all efforts and is the key to our activities.

Occasionally, members assist other clubs or individuals with their projects when called upon. Many more individuals lend to the success of the club.

BRCS members are active in the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, American Camellia Society (69), International Camellia Society as well as several local clubs and hold responsible positions in them.

But it is not all work for the BRCS members. A Christmas get-together is held at the home of Rebecca and 'Uncle' Bob Christian in Baton Rouge. Arlin Dease invites the club to the end of the year meeting at his wonderful 'Hemingbough' in St. Francisville for a lunch buffet. Following the meeting, all are invited to Walter Imahara's garden, also in St. Francisville.

It is only through the participation that the club is able to be successful in its endeavors. The BRCS annual show will



be held February 13 and 14, 2016, at Burden's Rural Life Museum, Essen Lane at I-10, in Baton Rouge. We invite all to participate in the work of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society. We have fun and get the job done, so join us if you can.



Camellia Show Dates 2015 - 2016

21 November 2015 - Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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

23-24 November 2015 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society State Fair Show

Byron Municipal Complex, Byron, GA

5 December 2015 - Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club Show, Valdosta, GA

5 December 2015 - Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA. City Auditorium 2053 2nd St. Open to public 2 p.m. Entry time for blooms - 8-11 a.m.

12 December 2015 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL. First Presbyterian Church, 33 E. Gregory St., Pensacola, FL.) Open to public 2 p.m. Entry time 7 to 11 a.m.

9 January 2016 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA. Southern Hotel, 428 East Boston St., Covington, LA. Open to public 1:30 p.m. Entry time 8 to 10:30 a.m.

9 January 2016 - Gainesville Camellia Society, Gainesville, FL.

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

9 January 2016 - Tallahassee Camellia Society, Doyle Conner Administration Building, 3125 Conner Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL

16 January 2016 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX. First Christian Church Fellowship Building, 3500 North Loop 336 West.

16-17 January 2016 – Camellia Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL. Colonial Mall, Bel Air, Mobile, AL. Open to public 2-7 p.m. Sat., and noon-4 p.m. Sun. Entry time 7 to 11

23-24 January 2016 - Costal Carolina Camellia Soc. ACS National Camellia Show

30 January 2016 - Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA. Th Theodore Roosevelt Middle School, 3315 Kaine St., Kenner, LA.

30 January 2016 - Lakeland Camellia Show, Lakeland, FL

6 February 2016 - Brookhaven Camellia Society, Brookhaven, MS. Brookhaven

Recreation Department, Highway 51 N. Open to public 2-5 p.m. Entry time 7 to 11

6 February 2016 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Huntsville, TX.

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

13-14 February 2016 - Baton Rouge Camellia Society, Baton Rouge, LA. Rural Life Museum, Essen Lane at I-10, Baton Rouge, LA. Open to public 3 p.m. Entry time 7:30

13 February 2016 - Southeast Alabama Camellia Club, Dothan, AL, First Methodist Church Family Center, 1380 West Main St., Dothan, AL

20-21 February 2016 - Atlanta Camellia Show, North Georgia Camellia Society.

21 February 2016 Camellia Stroll, Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA. Tour Hodie Wilson's Camellia Garden from 1 to 5 p.m.

5-6 March 2016 - Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society, Columbus, 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.

Camellia Quiz

The following sasanquas may be blooming now in the Gulf Coast Region. Can you name them? Answers on page 29.



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



In the Winter Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA

Winter is **the** Camellia Season we have waited for all year. Now we can enjoy those beautiful blooms and get ready for the winter chores of grafting, planting, re-potting and mulching.

Watering: The plants need ample moisture to bloom, so water every week if rainfall is sparse. Container grown plants need watering more frequently than growing in the ground. Check and water, if needed, 2-3 times a week.

Planting: Transplanting of plants can take place in December and continue through February. If you prepared your planting sites in October, the planting place should be in good shape by now if you've turned the soil over a few times. If you didn't do this earlier, do it now and wait a month or two. Container-grown plants can be planted into the ground at anytime. Spread out roots if root-bound or cut off badly bound roots. Do not allow to dry out.

Dig up those seedling plants which sprout under your plants and plant then in good potting soil in a pot or in a good garden location and in a year or so you will have a grafting size plant.

Grooming: Try to pick up spent blooms to control petal blight. Pin back leaves and branches with clothespins to prevent wind damage to your best buds.

January is a good time to do minor pruning while you are cutting flowers from the bush. If the branch is a weak one or will have no growth bud on it, then cut it off back at the main branch or the trunk. Don't leave a branch with leaves on it without growth buds; it is likely to die

back anyway. You are better off to prune it away at the time you cut the flower.

Spraying: If you have a plant with a scale problem, you can spray with oil emulsion such as Dormant Oil or Ultrafine Oil spray. Another good product is Neem Oil, also sold as a rose spray. Look for the active ingredient to be Neem Oil. (For example, Neem Oil is now 'the active ingredient in "Triple Action" spray by Fertilome which also contains a miticide and a fungicide.) As with other oil sprays, use in mild weather periods to avoid damage to the leaves. Always use as directed by manufacturer.

Mulching: Collect mulching materials (leaves, pine straw, etc) and spread a generous amount around your plants. Chopping leaves with the lawnmower will avoid matting. Covering leaves with pine straw will hold them in place and look good, too.

Grafting: Grafting can be started in January, but most grafting in this area is done in February. It can also be done in March if dormant scions are still available. If you are inexperienced at grafting contact your local camellia club about a demonstration or hands-on assistance in learning.

Attend camellia shows in your area and take flowers if you can. The clubs putting on shows always need plenty of flowers to make an impressive show.



Editor's Notes

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA
kennbc@cox.net



The Good Old Days

The following note by Vera Curry appeared in the Camellia Club of Mobile Newsletter of October 2015.

“While browsing through an American Camellia Society quarterly magazine from 1958 (which I borrowed from Jim Smelley) I found a list of Camellia Shows held throughout the US that spring - the Shreveport, Louisiana, Club had a total of 14,000 blooms in their Show on March 8/9, 1958!!!!!! Yep, that's fourteen thousand!!!! The Ozone Camellia Club of Slidell, LA, (this Club is still operating) had a total of 5,260 in their Show on January 25, 1958.... Lots of Clubs, no longer active, showed 2,000 or more blooms.”

Yes, Vera, I remember those days before petal blight descended upon us. You could cut a bloom and put it in a vase and it would last a week. If you refrigerated them they would stay show quality for a couple of weeks. Everyone saved a week's worth of blooms and carried them to the shows. I can recall that Mr. Oscar Elmer of New Orleans would arrive in his limousine followed by a van. The chauffeur and van driver would unload a truckload of coffin sized ice chests and proceed to place the flowers in the show under his supervision.

There were several large growers that provided blooms to the cut-flower trade where they were used for floral arrangements for weddings, banquets, etc.

Those businesses ceased when petal blight showed up.

Then in the late 1960s a series of severe winters wiped out many of the shows for three or four years. Many clubs got discouraged and disbanded. Some like the Baton Rouge club started up again after a few years, but many did not.

Best Grafting Days

The best grafting days occur a couple of days on either side of the 1st Quarter phase of the moon. The first quarter dates for the coming season are 16 January, 15 February, and 15 March 2016. Shoot for these dates if you can, but if you need more time use the last quarter dates. Avoid the full moon.



C. japonica 'Oscar B. Elmer Var.' 1978 J. L. Mandrich, Menlo Park, CA.



Camellia Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Alabama Beauty | 2. Alabama Beauty | 3. Autumn Sentinel |
| 4. Daydream | 5. Yuletide | 6. Pink Snow |

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join



C. japonica "Gus Menard" 1962, by Ernest E. Judice, New Orleans, LA



C. japonica "Grace Albritton Starfire" 1980, by C. X. Copeland, Jackson, MS



C. japonica "William Forest Bray" 1960, by W. F. Bray, Pensacola, FL



C. japonica "Blood of China" 1905, by Stoutz Garden, Mobile, AL

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: _____

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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Camellia japonica from "...Camellieae..." Chandler and Beattie 1831
The first of the genus introduced into England prior to 1701 from China.