

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

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Camellia japonica 'Tama Loch Laurel'

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Membership Roster Edition

The Gulf Coast Camellian

Volume 43 No. 3 Summer 2017

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From the Cover



Camellia japonica ‘Tama Loch Laurel’

This 9-year old chance seedling of ‘Tama Electra’ was originated, registered and propagated by Mark Crawford, Valdosta, GA. The mid-season, medium size loose peony to semi-double flower has heavy petal texture and falls in one piece. The plant is upright with a medium growth rate and a profuse bloomer.

President's Message

Caroline Dickson
Poplarville, Mississippi



The long hot summer days in the South is the time to start planning this seasons show. The location for your show should be booked and publicity planned with the times and dates. The ACS list of judges should be consulted for current certification and contact information. Former judges may be placed on a separate check list to contact as general assistants with the technical details on show day. They will appreciate inclusion in the show advance notification process. ACS should be notified of the show date, time, and address for posting on the website.

Have you reviewed your show schedule to increase the number of awards using certificates and or ribbons instead of merchandise? Does your awards list reflect the points available categories listed in the ACS Yearbook 2016 page 145? Do you offer awards for the categories of fragrant, white, yellow, pre 1900, pre 1950, or a locally developed flower?

Do you limit species to one award when your show will have hundreds of flowers competing that would be better served by size awards and added tray display awards? Do you have one judge team pick one species award winner or set up size contention? Does one species award discourage growers from bringing rare flowers because 'star above star' is so heavily favored? Does your program allow tiny flowers to be displayed as a spray of a defined length?

Has the show chair secured a copy of the Atlantic Coast size list to distinguish usual size when the SCCS Nomenclature book lists a size range? Has a reference to the use of the Atlantic Coast Camellia

Society size list been included in the show program?

Does your show schedule have a separate class for sasanqua without other species? Have we reached a point where Nonreticulata Hybrids, Sasanqua, Hemalis, and Vernalis should be grouped together with size category awards? Should the word "rare" be added to species to represent all seldom seen individual species specimens as a single award? A combination entry category would simplify placement of species crosses and allow the competition with the parent blooms.

The person who gathers merchandise to put on display for 8 hours while the show is in progress has a formidable challenge. Submitting the awards list to ACS by 30 days in advance of the show gives this person organizational time. Storage of merchandise can require multiple large containers measuring a couple of cubic yards. A numbering system on the awards list is helpful when carried through to the merchandise, contention tally sheet, and signs for contention and awards. Does your club allow removal of merchandise at the end of judging by the winner? Should merchandise dominate the awards table or should blooms? Can merchandise be set in a separate area for immediate pick up by by winners at the completion of judging to allow focus on flowers? Awards as certificates or ribbons would simplify the process.

Each show will have a different mix of blooms as the camellia season progresses from fall through spring. A single show chairman may be criticized for having an

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The Yunnan Camellias

by Hyman Norsworthy

Species reticulata of the genus *Camellia* was hidden from the western world for many centuries. Ancient oriental scholars were highly skilled and patient hybridizers. These people apparently made no effort to advertise their accomplishments as their culture seemed to be confined to a relatively small area around Kunming, China. This area was located in the Yunnan province of southwestern China near the Burmese and Vietnamese borders.

Many famous botanists visited China in search of plants. Many of our most beautiful flora are of Chinese origin. therefore, it is odd that the spectacular reticulatas were missed. Their first appearance in the west was in 1820 when an Englishman, Richard Rawes, captain of an east India ship, arrived in England with a load of plants from the orient. Included was an unknown species of camellia which was to become known as 'Captain Rawes Camellia'. This plant was given to a friend and it bloomed in 1826. A second importation was made by John Parks in the ship *Lowther Castle*. He had been in China on a collecting expedition for the Royal Horticultural Society. It is not known for certain but it is considered likely that both of these importations came from the flower market in the Pearl River at Canton. These were accepted as type form and given the name *Camellia reticulata*. A description



C. reticulata 'Captain Rawes' was the first *Reticulata* introduced into Europe in 1820. Photo - Bob Marcy



C. reticulata 'Pagoda' originated during the Yuan Dynasty (1347). Photo - Bob Marcy



*Robert Fortune (16 September 1812 – 13 April 1880) was a Scottish botanist, plant hunter and traveler. Following the Treaty of Nanjing in 1842, Fortune was sent out by the Horticultural Society to collect plants in China. His travels resulted in the introduction to Europe of many new, exotic, beautiful flowers and plants. His most famous accomplishment was the successful transportation of Chinese tea plants (*Camellia sinensis*) from China to the Darjeeling region of India, in the Eastern Himalayas, India, in 1848 on behalf of the British East India Company and got the by-name of 'the tea thief.' Fortune introduced the following camellias: *Camellia* 'Cup of Beauty' 1854, *Camellia* 'Princess Frederick William' 1854, *Camellia japonica* 'Variegata' 1866, *Camellia reticulata* 'Pagoda' 1843, *Camellia sasanqua* cvs. 1860, *Camellia sasanqua* var. 'Anemoniflora' 1850 Japan, *Camellia sinensis* to India - Tea Plant.*



C. reticulata 'Crimson Robe' China to Descanso/Ralph Peer 1948

of 'Captain Rawes' camellia first appeared in the botanical register of 1827. Needless to say, the first flowering of these plants created quite a sensation.

Robert Fortune now enters our picture. Fortune was a noted plant explorer who was in China between 1843 and 1862. He sent another garden variety of *reticulata* to England - a dark red formal to rose form double which became known as "Robert Fortune's camellia." We know this variety today as 'Pagoda.'

Nearly a century passed before we learned anything more about the species *reticulata*. In 1924, the plant explorer, George Forrest, collected seeds of a wild retic growing on hillsides near Tengyueh, Yunnan. These were cultivated by the noted English hybridizer J. C. Williams and flowered in 1932.

The world-wide revival of camellia culture in general was just beginning in the mid-1930s. In 1938, a Chinese botanist, Dr. H. H. Hu, published an article in the Royal Horticulture Society's journal which indicated many ancient cultivated forms of *Camellia reticulata* were in existence.

After World War II, three well-known camellia enthusiasts began working on the retic puzzle - each independent of the other. They were Dr. W. E. Lammerts, an American camellia researcher; Ralph S. Peer, the dedicated amateur of California; and Walter Hazelwood, nurseryman of New South Wales. Their trail led to the Yunnan botanical institute at Kunming. From the Director and his assistant, Professor H. T. Tsai, much information was obtained. They learned that some twenty varieties

were growing in the institute gardens. Some of the plants were more than 300 years old and some varieties had been in cultivation since 900 A.D.

In early 1948, Dr. Lammerts received an air shipment of plants. Ralph Peer's shipment came a little later and five varieties went to Walter Hazelwood in Australia. Five of Lammerts' and 16 of Peer's plants failed to survive plant quarantine two hours exposure to methyl bromide fumes. None of Hazelwood's plants survived. But with cooperation of their Chinese friends, another partially successful shipment was made and 18 varieties were finally established by 1950. West coast hybridizers, such as Howard Asper et al, led the way with the introduction of many fine hybrids. Current hybridizers include Messrs. Piet, Gaeta, Hall and Dr. Homeyer in the U.S.; Messrs. Sebire, Pierson and Hunt in Australia; and Messrs. Lennard, Hansen and Clark in New Zealand - Just to name a few. The Yunnan retics began a new phase in camellia culture and added vivid colors that do not exist in our japonicas. If you are not growing them now, you should try a few and revel in their beauty.

Editors Note: This article is based on a talk which Hyman Norsworthy gave at the Gulf Coast Camellia Society annual meeting in Mobile in September 1993 and first appeared in the 'Camellian' vol. 22 no.2 Spring 1994.



C. reticulata
“Buddha”
Originated by
Professor Tsai in
Kunming, Yunnan,
China. It was sent to
Descanso Gardens
as a seedling 1950.
Photo - Bob Marcy

C. retic ‘ Dream Girl’
L to VL, vigorous
upright growth. sasq.
‘Narumi-Gata’ x retic
‘Buddha’ (U.S. 1965 -
Howard Asper,
Escondido, CA).
Photo - Maphis



C. retic ‘Jean
Comber’ L to VL.
Average compact
growth. Retic ‘
Crimson Robe’ x
retic Cornealian.’
U.S. 1984 Frank
Pursel, Oakland, CA.
Photo - Maphis

C. retic. ‘Terrell
Weaver Var.’ L to VL.
Spreading upright
growth. Retic.
‘Crimson Robe’ x
japonica ‘Ville de
Nantes.’ U.S. 1974 Dr.
W. F. Homeyer,
Macon, GA.
Photo - Maphis



President's Message

Continued from page 3

award category that has no entry at a particular show date. Referencing the ACS points awards system list of awards should encourage entrants to bring every bloom possible throughout the season.

Do you have training sessions for new members to teach completion of entry cards which includes knowledge of *C. japonica* distinguished from *C. reticulata* with abbreviations used in local speech. Are the placement plans written for the facility done early enough to share and use as training tools as well as judge team assignment? Teaching differences in camellias is better done in the peak of the natural bloom time instead of only the beginning of the season or relying on gibbed blooms. Teaching of new members should include websites of ACS, ACCS, SCCS, large camellia nurseries, and state extension services.

If you have Sweepstakes, does the program state which blooms will be counted? When blooms are very crowded on the table, the system of collecting first place, then second place only to break a tie can be flawed by overlooked tags. Is a senior judge assigned to repeatedly sweep the tables after the tags were collected but before completion of the summary?

When blooms are crowded on the table, it can be difficult to see "ht" written in pencil on an entry card. Do you have a bold design reminder card placed by the judge team? Red paper at least one inch by two inches is helpful. Smaller sizes can disappear under a large bloom. White cards for head table are hard to notice when placed on white entry cards. Light green cards are hard to notice on green entry cards.

Computer technology can be a valuable resource. Anything needed from a member's computer should be completed a week before the show. If a single person

is doing the input, members quickly overload this person mistakenly thinking of them as creating instantly without regard to actual time spent doing computer input. Hand written name tags are acceptable. Hand written contention tally sheets labeled in advance are acceptable. How about the ribbon that says "judge" or "clerk" worn only during active show duties? How about a simple badge with a single word worn during active show duties?

Will a special team be used for placement of blooms? Will people place their own blooms on the exhibit tables?

Do you have a written instruction sheet for clerks who can get easily confused by various judges giving different instructions? Are all of the supplies needed by clerks gathered and in working condition by two weeks before the show?

Safety of members and guests is a priority. Event day liability insurance may be required. Members should constantly scan the floor for water puddles, plant stems, and loose materials that make unsteady walking conditions. Is a mop and broom readily available and a cleaning team assembled?

This is written to the general membership to analyze and understand the complexities of getting to show day. Members are encouraged to participate in a positive manner. There are many practices that happen by habit of the show organizers. If you see an area that you want to participate in, let the show chair know as early as possible. The American Camellia Society has written rules for judges which club members should be familiar with even if not a judge. Not every spur of the moment idea can be changed on show day.

Camellia shows were originated with award ribbons and certificates but got distracted by merchandise on the awards table. We need to emphasize the visual experience of hundreds of beautiful blooms.





The White House: Gardens and Camellias

By Ruby G. Campbell, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

[Thanks to Vicki Baugh of Spanish Fort, Alabama, for suggesting this topic. Researching it has been both edifying and great fun.]

The White House has served as a residence for the presidents of the United States since 1800. The eighteen acres that surround it make up the front and back yards of the first family and thus is the nation's first garden as well. It has reflected the horticultural styles and



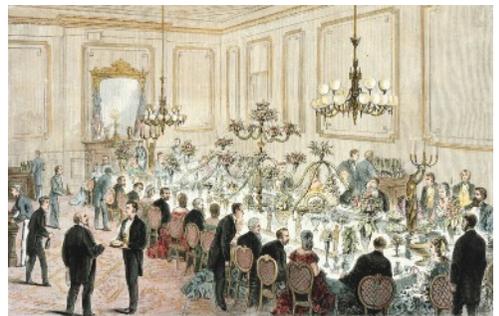
Two Southern Magnolia trees were planted at the White House by Andrew Jackson in memory of his wife Rachel.

preferences of the forty-three first families who have occupied the premises. [Grover and Frances Cleveland lived there during two separate administrations (1885-89 and 1890-1901), and although George Washington was very much involved in the establishment, plans, and planting of the gardens, he never lived in the White House. Thus the forty-three instead of forty-five residents.]

Flowers of all types are used profusely in today's White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Not only do they grace the tables at State Dinners held for visiting dignitaries, but they are also used in the offices where they bring color,

design and tranquility to such busy places as well as in the lesser rooms and family quarters. Even Air Force 1 contains floral arrangements on flights

But it was not always so. In the early years, people objected the use of cut flowers indoors. They believed that fresh flowers "drank up the oxygen in the air and sent harmful vapors into the room." As a result, wax flowers were used. The earliest record of these describes the wax flowers used by James Monroe (1817-1825) which he placed in his 13-foot bronze and mirror plateau he had ordered from France for his banquet table. Wax flowers had the delicate and subtle coloring of the real thing and enjoyed a long history of use in the state rooms of the White House.



James Monroe's 'plateau' decorated with wax flowers.

Enter the camellias. Interest in flower arranging with fresh flowers seems to have begun in the late 1840s. The first record of a camellia in a show in the United States was in Philadelphia in 1828, the year Andrew Jackson was elected, and

three blooms were shown. It was Jackson who introduced camellias to the White House in 1834 when he founded a greenhouse in the form of an orangery to provide healthful winter citrus for the table. He added camellias and sasanquas to the greenhouse and brought them into the White House in pots. Noted writer and political activist, Jesse Benton Fremont, wife of explorer John Charles Fremont, and daughter of US Senator from Missouri, Thomas Hart Benton, commented in her memoirs, *Souvenirs of My Time* (1887), on the beautiful camellia blooms during entertainments at the White House.

Fresh flower arrangements were introduced to the White House by Harriet Lane, acting First Lady during the presidency of her bachelor uncle, James Buchanan (1857-1861). Harriet had Andrew Jackson's greenhouse rebuilt on top of the West Wing of the house and could easily be reached from the hall of the state floor. In heavy terra cotta pots placed on wooden tables, brightly colored single petal roses flourished along with pink and red camellias, palms, and white lilies.

Harriet enjoyed the walks in the new conservatory and appreciated the camellias as well as the South American



Miss Harriet Lane's conservatory at the White House.

Documents of the 1830s and '40s in the National Archives list wide varieties of indoor plants ordered for the White House from nurseries everywhere but mostly in Long Island. Potted fruit trees and tubbed camellias were popular, but roses became the most prized.

Up to this point in time, gardening appears to have been the purview of men. But with the introduction of the glass conservatories, the ladies began to enjoy spending time in them and took an interest in the growth of the plants.

orange trees. On visiting days, the public was permitted to enjoy the conservatory as well. A visiting journalist wrote of his impression in 1858: "As you enter the conservatory itself, it seems almost like penetrating the luxurious fragrances of some South American island, so warm and odiferous is the atmosphere. . . Here you may see orange trees, and a lemon tree. . . rows of prickly cactus of every size and shape . . . camellia japonica, delicate spires, ardesia, and poinsettia . . ."

Abraham Lincoln (1861-65) and wife Mary Todd, continued having flower arrangements in the White House as he followed every one of Buchanan's social customs. Mrs. Lincoln wore flowers in her hair, and carried a bouquet at public receptions to avoid getting her hands bruised by shaking hands.

Mrs. Lincoln sent bouquets as a floral largess in place of a formal visit by the president's wife. The bouquet maker "would take a perfect flower, whether a rose, cape jasmine, or camellia and with his assistant tying the short stemmed flowers onto broom straws [would] build up a structure of the size and shape of a cabbage with an edging of forget-me-nots or delicate ferns. They were then placed into a stiff paper bouquet holder and were ready for presentation."

It was during the administration of Ulysses S. Grant (1869-77) that floral arranging rose to full force. The rooftop greenhouse had burned in 1867 and had been replaced by an iron and wooden structure twice as large as the earlier one. First Lady Julia Grant employed additional gardeners and greenhouse specialists who could arrange flowers as well as take care of them. Orchids were her favorites and soon the conservatory had an orchid room.

By 1893 during the second term of Grover Cleveland, the head gardener of the White House, Henry Pfister, had in



Gardener Henry Ofister's conservatories at their ultimate extent in the late 19th c.

addition to the display conservatory, a fern house, a violet house, a grapery, a camellia house, two rose houses, two orchid houses, one propagating house, and a house for bedding plants.

When Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) moved into the White House at the turn of the century with wife Edith and their five children, and his daughter Alice Lee from his first marriage (her mother having died in childbirth), the house was bursting at the seams. An expansion was done which required the moving of the conservatory and the greenhouses to make room for what is now called the West Wing.

The War Years. With the advent of World War I, garden projects took a back seat as the work force was diverted to defense. By the spring of 1918, a herd of



Sheep keeping the grass short on the White House lawn during WWI.

twenty sheep had taken up residence on the South Lawn to keep the grass closely cropped. The wool from the sheared White House sheep was sold at auction for the benefit of the American Red Cross and brought in \$52,828.

The stock market crash of 1929 and the resulting Great Depression took attention as well as appropriation away from garden endeavors. It wasn't until Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms (1933-45) that any further work was done with the White House gardens. Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., American landscape

designer, felt that the White House grounds needed uplifting. He researched the history of the landscape in detail and mapped its hundreds of trees and shrubs. But again, the nation was thrust into war and little could be done.

By the time Harry Truman (1945-53) and Bess (who had a definite distaste for “First Ladying”) moved in, the White House was about to fall down. The remodeling done during the Teddy Roosevelt administration had basic structural problems that started to surface. Poor foundations caused plaster to fall, walls to crack, and floors to creak. The presidential bathtub began to sink into the tile floor. When the leg of daughter Margaret’s spinet piano broke through an upstairs floor one summer day in 1948, consulting engineers issued a red alert.

The Trumans were immediately moved across Pennsylvania Avenue to Blair House, the official guest residence. Over the next three and a half years, the White House was gutted, reinforced, and rebuilt.

With the “new” White House, came new gardens. Twenty-seven of the newest varieties of azaleas were planted on the grounds. The Rose Garden was replanted with the most modern varieties including the popular Floribundas. Gardeners had grown camellias in the White House conservatories for over one hundred years before the first ones were planted outdoors in 1952. And a new lawn was installed.

The modern era. When John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Bouvier arrived at the White House (1961-69), the President thought that the lawn was “never quite right.” National Park Service employees who now had the responsibility of the White House grounds, tried everything, but still Mrs. Kennedy stated that “this place looks as well as cornfields in Virginia.” Records

show that before the arrival of important guests, brown patches in the lawn were spray-painted green.

The Rose Garden needed refurbishing and President Kennedy asked that a variety of other types of plants be mixed in with the roses.



President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline on White House lawn.

While digging the old soil of the rose garden to upgrade it, a mysterious cable buried in a corner of the garden was cut. It turned out to be the hot line that set off the nation’s military alert! The area was soon teeming with security guards. The cable was one that had hastily been installed during WWII by the Navy. Records of its location were inaccurate, hence the error.

The rose garden took front and center during President Richard Nixon’s administration (1969-71) when daughter, Tricia, was married there.

In March 1972, then Governor Ronald Reagan invited the President and First Lady Thelma “Pat” Nixon to Sacramento for the 18th Annual Camellia Festival.

Mrs. Nixon opened the festival by unveiling a new “Pat Nixon” camellia which had been named in her honor. She then planted the camellia near the east steps of the California State Capitol. The camellia, developed by Kramer Nurseries of Upland, California, has blush pink petals veined in deeper pink. It was developed from a sport of the “Richard Nixon” camellia, a large, anemone-form



C. japonica 'Pat Nixon'



C. japonica 'Richard Nixon'

flower with pinkish white, rose-streaked petals.

That night after the parade and all of the festivities were over, a thief dug up the plant, stuffed the roots in a burlap bag, and took it home. A gardener discovered the hole the next morning. Quickly, before anyone could notice, a new “Pat Nixon” camellia was planted in the same hole. Reagan is rumored to have hand-picked a

squad of state capitol police to guard the new camellia around the clock.

Incoming President James “Jimmy” Carter (1977-81) was one of the few presidents since James Monroe who could honestly list agriculture as his occupation.

First Lady Rosalyn Carter, whose favorite flower was the white camellia, may be credited with the grandest of camellia arrangements of all at the White House. Her garden club friends from Georgia had gathered hundreds of camellias and had hand delivered them to the White House for a State Dinner honoring Prime Minister Deng Xiaoping of China. The garden club ladies assisted the staff in placing the blooms in large glass bowls with floating candles on each table. This was a particularly appropriate decoration inasmuch as the camellia originated in China and is the official state flower of Georgia.

Flowers have different cultural meanings in different countries, thus a certain protocol must be followed in choosing which ones to use in arrangements. In Italy, for example, the chrysanthemum is associated with death and would make for an awkward centerpiece at an Italian State Dinner. In Muslim and many Pacific Rim countries, the color white is reserved for funerals, while in many of the Central and South American countries, the same is true of the color yellow. Some heads of state have floral preferences: President Francois Mitterand of France loved roses; Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain fancied anemonies

An interesting side note here is that while any container in the White House suitable for flower arranging, regardless of its age, value, or source, may be used, it must be properly fitted with a liner to protect each piece from excess

water. The liners are custom made in the White House metal shop to fit perfectly. Then in the arranging process, the liners are filled with water-holding foam or even chicken wire to hold the design in place.

The 21st century. Access to the grounds changed as a result of the post-September 11th world. Security concerns closed Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House to vehicular traffic, and it became a promenade for people including protestors exercising their First Amendment rights. Although security bollards do exist, they are discreetly placed in a sleek, modern paving pattern. Historic fixtures light the way for evening strollers and traditional benches line the paths. New disease-resistant American elms have been placed on both sides of the avenue in keeping with the trend of using native plants.

Camellias are still being grown at the White House. The 2008 inventory, *The*

White House Gardens and Grounds: 2004-2008, ed. Office of the National Park Service Liaison to the White House (Washington, D.C.: White House Historical Association, one of a series published since 1976), listed straight species, the hybrid *C. x* “Survivor,” and cultivars “Brilliant,” “Tricolor Sieboldii,” and “Victory White.”

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C. hybrid x ‘Survivor Parks’
(*c. sasanqua ‘Narumigata’ x c. oliefera*) (U.S. 1988 -



C. japonica ‘Tricolor’
(Japan to Germany 1832 - Seibold)



C. japonica ‘Brilliant’
(U.S. 1941 - Blackwell)



C. japonica ‘Victory White’
(U. S. 1939 - Overlook)

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Minutes of the 2016 Executive Board Meeting

October 17, 2016

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society (GCCS) Executive Board Meeting was held October 17, 2016 at 2:30 pm at the Hollywood Casino Convention Center in Bay St. Louis, MS. The 2016 GCCS membership general meeting activities followed which were hosted by the Mississippi Coast Camellia club.

James Dwyer, 2016 GCCS President, called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm and presided over the meeting. Vice President, Roger Roy was absent due to resignation.

Board Members presents:

Rebecca Christian, Secretary

Michael Ruth, Treasurer

State Vice Presidents:

Al Baugh, Alabama

Mark Crawford, Georgia

James Smelly, Mississippi

Carol Comber, Florida

Jim Campbell, Louisiana

Absent: Claudette Shelfer, Texas

Presidents Emeriti:

Richard Hooten

Lynn Vicknair

ACS Executive Director: Celeste Richard.

Nominated 2017 Officers:

Carolyn Dickson, President

Hunter Charbonnet, Vice President

Members: Vickie Baugh, Betty Hooten

Minutes of the previous GCCS Board Meeting held on October 18, 2015 were distributed by the Secretary, Rebecca Christian. The Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes received in print and unanimously approved the minutes.

Treasurer, Michael Ruth, distributed copies of a report of expenses and revenue for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 Fiscal Year. The checking account balance was \$9,822 on June 30, 2016 compared to \$10,791 a year earlier on June 30, 2015. Total revenue to support the activities of GCCS from dues, raffles, auctions

and donations was \$7,436. The cost of printing the last four issues of *The Camellian* was \$5,154 for 880 copies. Convention fees collected for October 2015 were \$7,720 with expenses of \$9,809 dispersed for speakers and facility charges by Hollywood Casino. Mike Ruth led a discussion of expected lower expenses for meetings in the future. The *Camellian* printing is the major operating expense with the goal of extending camellia education to members. The cost of *The Camellian* was discussed by the Board and believed to be well worth the expense which may be supplemented by the GCCS Trust if requested. No supplemental distribution from the GCCS Trust was requested during the report period. Hunter Charbonnet opened a discussion that event liability insurance may be required which would increase the meeting expenses in the future and volunteered to seek an opinion on the subject. Hunter Charbonnet suggested increasing membership dues revenue by recruitment at the local club level. James Dwyer requested an updated membership list. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved by the Board.

GCCS Endowment Trust Administrator, Bob Stroud, reported the current 2016 value of the fund has a recent average of \$94,000 which is an increase from 2015 October average of \$86,000. Bob Stroud described the investment holdings of the fund as mutual funds. Bob Stroud recommended distributions from the Trust to cover projects supported by GCCS or for printing *The Camellian*.

1. Mark Crawford announced that the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society funded a grant to support research in plant viruses by Dr. Simon Scott at Clemson University. Mark Crawford reported on research by Dr. Thomas Ranney at North Carolina to develop crosses for cold hardy plants. Mark had previously described Dr. Ranney's plant crosses in an article printed in *The Camellian*. Mark Crawford made a motion to support the

research by Dr. Ranney with a distribution of \$2,000 from the GCCS Trust account. Jim Campbell seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the distribution. Jim Campbell seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the distribution of \$2,000 to the North Carolina Horticultural Foundation

2. Celeste Richard described damage of the camellia display gardens at Masee Lane by wild hogs that had not been controlled with trapping efforts. A fence to completely surround Masee Lane had a cost of \$12,000. Jim Campbell endorsed the need and cost of the fence. Bob Stroud made a motion to make a distribution of \$2,000 to cover expense of the hog fence at Masee Lane. The motion was seconded by Mark Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Jim Campbell made a motion that \$2,000 be distributed to the ACS Endowment Fund. Mark Crawford seconded the motion which the Board unanimously approved.

Editor of *The Camellian*, Kenn Campbell, requested articles for future issues of *The Camellian* to be sent by Board members and local members.

The nominating report was delivered by President James Dwyer with the slate of offices to be:

- President – Carolyn Dickson
- Vice President – Hunter Charbonnet
- Treasurer – Michael Ruth
- Secretary – Rebecca Christian

Al Baugh moved to approve the nominated slate of officers. Jim Campbell seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the slate of officers to be presented to the membership October 18, 2016 at the GCCS

New business:

2017 GCCS convention invitation was extended by Lynn Vicknair for October 15-16, 2017. The Baton Rouge Camellia Society will host the meeting to be held at the LSU Rural Life Museum. The Drury Hotel on Essen Lane will be the host for room and breakfast with light afternoon refreshments. Event liability insurance is required. A payment for LSU

security officers is required after regular hours. James Dwyer moved to accept the meeting location. Al Baugh seconded the motion that the invitation would be presented at the general membership meeting. The 2018 GCCS convention in Pensacola was mentioned by Dick Hooten pending approval by local club members,

Rebecca Christian brought up the best way to memorialize deceased members of GCCS. She noted that during the last year several members have been remembered for their service to local organizations by means of a brief article in *The Camellian*. Rebecca recommended that this practice be continued. It was discussed and agreed that Treasurer Michael Ruth would receive information about the death of members and forward to Editor, Kenn Campbell for inclusion in *The Camellian*.

Celeste Richard, Executive Director, ACS and Jim Campbell, ACS President, discussed upcoming changes in American Camellia Society organizational structure which focuses on local clubs nominating members that will be voted on by their regional members to fill positions in the ACS organization. The process change and procedures will be presented by Celeste Richard and Jim Campbell in the general session.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim Campbell, seconded by Mark Crawford and unanimously approved by the Board.

Submitted for Publication (May 4 2017)
Rebecca S. Christian, GCCS Recording Secretary



C. japonica 'Mississippi Beauty'



At the ACS Convention in Oregon April 2017. Standing is James (Jim) Dickson. Seated (on the left) his wife, Carolyn and on the right is Caroline Dickson, GCCS President.



*C. sasanqua 'Red October'
Originated, registered and propagated
by Glenn Read of Lucedale, MS 2016*

AROUND THE



C. japonica 'George Lumsden' loose peony form to rose form double, light pink fading to white at center, small to medium. Originated by Hulyn Smith, Valdosta, GA, registered and propagated by Randolph Maphis, Tallahassee, FL. 2016



The Camellia Club of Mobile welcome visitors to their display at the Semmes Heritage Day Festival on May 6 of this year. This is an annual celebration that has special significance this year because it is part of Alabama's three-year bicentennial birthday celebration. Semmes, Alabama is a major nursery center and has a long history of propagating camellias and other plants. The club had a table displaying Carolyn Oyler's huge poster showing dozens of colorful camellia photos plus lots of free literature about camellias and how to grow them.



Visitors to the University of West Florida Camellia Garden Enhancement Ribbon Cutting Ceremony enjoy the new walkways and seating improvements. The Garden is a joint venture between UWF and the Pensacola Camellia Club.

GULF COAST



C. japonica 'Rosalynn Carter' named in honor of the Former First Lady from Georgia. Originated by Clarence & Lillian Gordy, Ocala, FL. Registered by ACS in 2017.



At the Pensacola Camellia Club March Banquet, outgoing President, Christi Hankins was named Camellia Person of the Year.



C. japonica 'Rhysa Johnson' Originated and propagated by Pat B. Johnson, Cairo, GA. 2017

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In the Summer Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA



Activities slow down in the summer camellia garden, but there are still important chores to be done.

Water: Be sure plants get enough water during dry periods. Plants in the ground need 1" of water each week if it doesn't rain, and container plants may need water several times a week.

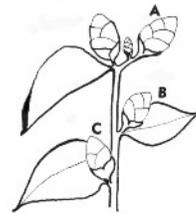
Water Quality. Check pH of your water supply (check with water company) to determine how it will effect your soil or potting mix. For example - Baton Rouge water has a pH of 8.3 and using city water can raise the pH of tour soil to 7 - 7.5. Soil pH for camellias should be 5.5 to 6 for best growth and health. Have soil tested to determine if corrections are needed. Sulfur lowers the soil pH. Aluminum sulphate is faster acting, but elemental provides long lasting results.

Spraying: Spot spray as required to control pests. DO NOT use oil emulsion sprays in the heat of the summer as the will damage your plants. Use summer sprays such as "Triple Action" which contains Neem Oil as the active ingredient. Use as directed for 'summer use.'

Mulching: Provide 2" to 3" of chopped leaves or bark to help control weeds and keep soil cool.

Fertilizing: Plants growing in the ground generally do not need fertilizing in the summer. Plants in containers need fertilizer every month or so, since the nutrients will leach from the container with each watering. Use a time release formula with trace elements to reduce the frequency and provide more uniform feeding.

Pruning and Disbudding: Start disbudding as soon as the flower buds are easily discernable from the growth buds. Carefully pinch off all but one flower bud on each stem to help get better and larger



Remove buds A,B and C to leave terminal

blooms. While disbudding, bring along your clippers and trim off any weak or dead branches as you go along. Minor pruning to adjust the shape of the plant can also be done. Try to keep your clippers as clean as you can to avoid spreading dieback, which always seems to be around. Pruning paint, available in a convenient spray can, can be sprayed on the larger wounds for protection against fungal infections.

Seed Pods: Pick seedpods before they crack completely open (usually August) to avoid losing seed or having them dry out. Generally, the seedpods turn a lighter green and show signs of the pod preparing to split some time before they actually split. Once picked the pods will split open in a couple of days and the seed may be planted at that time.

Propagation: The summer months of July and August are good for air-layering and rooting cuttings of camellias.



Camellia Quiz

Name these reticulatas that are popular in the Gulf Coast Region.
Answers on page 29.



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

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.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Gainesville%20CS.html

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.pensacolacamelliaclub.com

Valdosta Camellia Society

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/assets/pdf/Valdosta%20Newsletters%20-%202013-2014.pdf (Awe heck - just google it)

Editor's Notes

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



The grafting experiment using an old Scottish variation on the approach graft shown in the Winter 2017 Camellian was a failure. The graft was made last fall and the scion looked green all winter. But when the new growth on the stock plant began, the scion died. I will try again when the new growth hardens and I can get a scion. Hopefully I can find the proper timing to make it work as it is much easier than top-working.



I enjoy receiving pictures of western Scotland from my friend Dsuncan Beaton. I couldn't resist showing you the one on the back cover with the 'Donation' in full bloom. Argyll is about the same latitude as Newfoundland, but the west coast of Scotland is warmed by the Gulf Stream making camellias a popular plant in the area.

The williamsii hybrids perform exceptionally well, but I have seen many japonica plants in the area. Unfortunately, I have never been there during blooming season.



Camellia hyb. 'Donation' (*salunensis* x *japonica* 'Donckelarii').



C. jap. 'Charlotte de Rothschild' England 1930.

Another failed experiment was my attempt at "cutting grafts." I had seen articles about this being a good method to root hard-to-root varieties. So I took several cuttings of retic. 'Lila Naff' and the sasanqua we use for understock, scraped the bark down to cambium, bound them together with a rubber band, dipped in rooting hormone and stuck in the mist bed that the BRCS operates at the Burden Center. The theory being that the sasanqua will root and the retic will be bound to the sasq, by grafting. They can then be potted up and when well rooted the sasq. can be cut away. After six months they failed to root and died. Guess I will try again this summer with some different combinations.

Camellia Quiz Answers

1. 'Black Lace' 1968 L.W. Ruffin, Ellisville, MS
2. 'Brooke Maphis' 2008 Dr. W. F. Homeyer, Macon, GA
3. 'Lady Pamela' 1996 Dr. R. Withers, Aus
4. 'Francie L' 1964 Nuccios, Altedena, CA
5. 'Frank Houser Var.' 1990 Marvin Jernigan, Warner Robins, GA
6. 'Lila Naff' 1967 Tammia Nsy., Slidell, LA



C. japonica "Bessie Battle" 1999, by Tom Dodd, Semmes, AL



C. NR Hybrid "Betty Ridley Var." 1978, by Dr. W.F. Homeyer, Macon, GA



C. japonica "Eddie Gilley Var." 1997, by Ray Gentry, Jackson, MS



C. japonica "El Rojo 1954, by Hody Wilson, Hammond, LA

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join

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: _____

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The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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My friend Duncan Beaton sent this recent picture of a corner of his garden in the village of Furnace, Argyll, Scotland, with a williamsii hybrid 'Donation' in full bloom on the left. The one on the right is Charlotte de Rothschild. The view is looking east across Loch Fyne and on many mornings the sunrise is spectacular. (-ed.)