

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Summer 2013

Volume 39 No. 3



'Joy Kendrick'

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society
Membership Roster Edition

The Gulf Coast
Camellian

Volume 39 No. 2

Spring 2013

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President's Message

Lynn Vicknair

I hope everyone has recovered from the torrential downpours and the unusually cold weather we have had in the last few months. This weather has been so crazy and unpredictable! Hopefully everyone has all of their grafting done and is ready to start peeking at their progress.

I was recently asked why membership in GCCS is beneficial. Even though there is no show associated with our conference it is a time for networking and learning new tips and techniques. At the meetings there are always educational sessions and guest speakers to learn from. And, now that we have started rotating the location every year we have the opportunity to discover the local culture and maybe visit a local attraction or a private garden. It is also a time to get to know your fellow camellians and learn what other clubs do that your club might be able to apply to your club situation.

Our conference also gives the Gulf Coast Camellia Society opportunities to raise money. The proceeds from these fund-raisers help supplement the cost of publishing "The Camellian" so we

do not have to raise the cost of our dues. The Raffle (Big Ticket) Item is the one we sell "chances" on. In the last few years, this has included such items as beautiful oil paintings, quilts, jewelry, and hand-made furniture. This year it will be an exquisite piece of Boehm porcelain. Also, the live auction brings us funds. The live auction is predominately new, unusual, and hard to find camellia varieties that are donated by the generous growers in our club. These are the varieties that you will be seeing at the shows next winter. The live auction in Natchez also included camellia wood bowls and accessories. Lastly is the silent auction. The silent auction items are also donated by our club members or sponsors and usually include camellia paintings, books, cut glass items, gardening items, and anything else you can imagine. Please remember to bring your donated items for these auctions.

Now I would like to share some exciting news about our upcoming conference in Spanish Fort. This year our main educational speaker will be Buddy Lee. He is a nationally known plant/azalea breeder who developed the Encore Azalea and

has done some studies on the Camellia Azalea. The keynote speaker for the banquet will be Mr. Donnie Barrett, the owner of the Fairhope Tea Plantation, the only tea plantation in Alabama. Then we have THE FOOD. There will be a lunch and two dinners so there is time to unwind and relax. Find your old friends and catch up or make new friends and enjoy. We all take home something from these annual meetings whether it is a tip about a new fertilizer, updates on the camellia world, or just reconnecting with old friends.

Hopefully you will invite your camellia friends and join us in Spanish Fort, Monday October 14th and Tuesday 15th for the next meeting. Al and Vickie Baugh and the Mobile Club are working hard to welcome everyone to their quaint, peaceful town on the Gulf Coast.

I like to think of our GCCS as being a tight-knit group. It seems our group is getting smaller but we are always open to embrace new members. We support all of our local

clubs and will always help another club in any way we can. I know the president of my club is always willing to volunteer our members to help other clubs members clean greenhouses or identify blooms. So, next time someone asks you about GCCS I hope you take the opportunity to encourage them to join us.

Now that the show season has concluded, I have some numbers to share. In 2012-2013 at 11 Gulf Coast Camellia Shows there were a total of 12,325 blooms displayed. Pensacola had the most with 2057. Good job !!!

And thinking of Pensacola, remember that the American Camellia Society annual meeting and convention will be there this year, December 11-15 2013. Let's support them anyway we can. Check your "ACS Journal" for more information.

As always, Kenn is doing a wonderful job with "The Camellian". Keep sending him your local news articles and pictures so he can keep up the nice quality of the publication. 🌸

From Our Cover

'Joy Kendrick', a Japonica Seedling Not Chemically Treated was a national winner of the Best Large or Very Large Seedling, over 4" and appeared on the cover of The Camellia Journal, the official publication of the American Camellia Society. It was grown by the late Sam Zerkosky, Tammia Nursery, Slidell, La.

See story on page 8.



Camellia Quiz

The top winners for camellia shows for the year 2011/2012 are listed in the 2012 ACS Yearbook. Can you name these? Answers on page 29.



Japonica - Mineature -137 pts.

#1 _____



Reticulata - 107 pts.

#2 _____



Japonica - Mineature -100 pts.

#3 _____



Japonica - Small - 95 pts.

#4 _____



Japonica - Medium - 88 pts.

#5 _____



Japonica - Very Large - 84 pts.

#6 _____

Air-Layering Using the Air-Propagator

By John Causey, Member of the Covington Camellia Society.

Photos by Susan Moran unless otherwise noted.

After spending many hours air-layering camellias on my own place last year, a friend came by and saw what it took to do so. He then told me about the Air-Propagator that he had come upon on the Internet.

Being a sucker for new things, I just had to give it a try. I have to say, this product is super-fast to install, and, I think it's the best thing in air-layering.

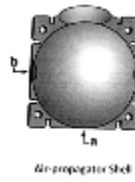
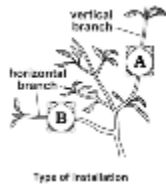
It works not only on camellias, but also on fruit trees, azaleas, and just about any plant.

Jim Campbell invited us to come and air-layer anything we wanted at his greenhouse. We accepted and made about 40 air-layers on his plants.

Using the air-propagator is similar to traditional air-layering. First make a wound on the branch through the cambium layer, dust with a little Root-tone, put on the Propagator, zip-tie it, water and you are done! That simple.



Jim Campbell (r.) gives Len Moran a tour of the garden and shows him where the plants to be air-layered are located.



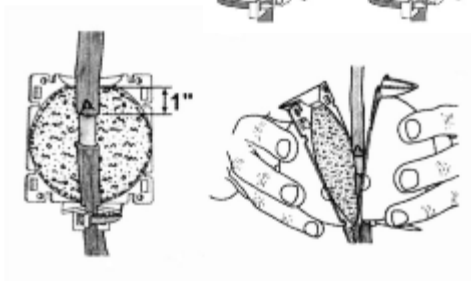
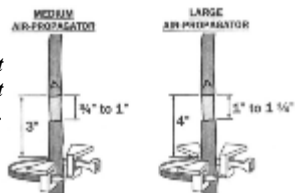
The propagator shell may be used for horizontal or vertical air-layering

Traditional methods are used to prepare stems for air-layering.



John Causey prepares stem and paints on rooting hormone assisted by Lisa Miller. John spent most of the day on a ladder as the plants were too large to reach from the ground.

Zip-ties are used to support propagator and keep it from slipping down.



Installing the Air-propagator



John installs the air-propagator and secures with zip-ties.

For my soil, I use 1/2 potting soil, 1/2 sphagnum peat and Perlite mixed together with enough water to make the mixture damp. The manufacturer also makes a premixed compressed growing medium disk that can be placed in the propagator and watered to expand it.

This device was engineered by Mr. Hong Park and is designed with a funnel-type top to catch rain, or if no rain, it should be watered about every ten days.

It can be seen and purchased at www.airpropagator.com or from Parkway Greenhouse, 13325 South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, AL 35803.



John finishes up at ground level as Len Moran and Paul Huerkamp look on.



The rooted air-layering ready to be cut off and potted up. Photo by Parkway Greenhouse.

A Special Gift

By Joycelyn “Joy” Kendrick

The Southern garden, so beautiful and inspiring especially on a warm spring day, became my family’s dream. Memories of the sun shining through historical live oaks dressed in Spanish Moss, a background of azaleas in radiant bloom, a path leading through a camellia garden in bloom with their multitude of floral design and color have always given me much happiness and contentment.

My husband Marvin E. Kendrick, M.D. (1931-2002), Slidell, Louisiana’s first full time pediatrician, began practice in July 1960.

We and our four children spent a lifetime walking through private, public and commercial gardens.

In 1962 we found our own azalea and camellia garden when we bought the summer cottage of the M.D. Kostmayer family on Military Road in Pearl River. We thought it was a grand place to raise our four children.

It was then we met Mr. Sam Zerkosky

and his wife, the late Feroll Zerkosky of Tamia Nursery in Slidell, and began purchasing camellias and azaleas from them.

During the blooming season, Marvin would take camellia flowers to his hospitalized children. He’d frequently choose a large ‘Purple Dawn.’

In 1978, we built a new pediatric office and landscaped it primarily with azaleas which when bursting into bloom signaled that



C. japonica “Joy Kendrick” by Sam Zerkosky, Tamia Nursery, Slidell, Louisiana 1985.

the children's contagious, respiratory illness season was about to be over. I wanted to plant a large camellia outside Marvin's office window. It was here that he could finally sit and chart.

Mr. Zerkosky was ever so courteous and patient as I inspected his large inventory looking for that special plant. I finally selected a camellia which had a large, beautiful pink bloom. He said, "It's not for sale." "Not for sale? But, but...my husband spends such long hours working..." Disappointed, I went on to select another. When Mr. Zerkosky came to plant the camellia, he brought the original pink plant that I had first selected!

I had not seen Mr. Zerkosky for some time. He unexpectedly appeared at the office years later and asked for me, knowing I worked full time with my husband.

It was great to see Mr. Zerkosky again. Then he told me he had named a camellia, a japonica seedling, for me and that it had won an award for the national Best Large or Very Large Seedling over 4" and that it had appeared on the cover of *The Camellia Journal*. Needless to say, I was stunned! It had never occurred to me to even dream of such a special honor. C. japonica 'Joy Kendrick' is described in the official nomenclature of the American Camellia Society as 'White to Blush Pink with light Pink stripes. Large, formal double. Average, dense, upright growth. M. (U.S. 1985 – Tamia)."

I knew he had named a camellia for Brenda Ann Hart, the deceased daughter of Slidell's former mayor and wife, Webb and Angie Hart. He had also named a camellia for Dr. Louis Polizzi and one for his wife Jane Polizzi. He named one for his own wife, Ferol Ilene, and one for himself. But to have one named after me, I couldn't have been more surprised!

He presented me with a copy of *The Camellia Journal* that had a picture of 'Joy Kendrick' on the cover and a camellia-etched glass plate that he had won.

Later attorney Rodger Edwards of Abeyville, La., sent me a newspaper article about the 'Joy Kendrick' camellia being propagated by Gordon Rabelais of Lafayette, La., and a note stating he had never known another Joy Kendrick and inquired if that was I.

I was finally able to purchase a 'Joy Kendrick' at the Slidell Camellia Show from Bob Stroud of Slidell, La., whose wife Erin had worked for my husband before becoming a nurse anesthetist.

A year or so ago I was able to purchase three more plants at the annual Slidell Camellia Show. At the time I could not find the name of the grower. One of these plants went to our son Sean in Marietta, Georgia, one to our son Kevin in Dallas, and one remains

here in Baton Rouge with our son, Brian. Unfortunately, I did not have one for our daughter, Brin Ferlito, who also lives in Baton Rouge.

This past November I moved from Slidell to Baton Rouge and by a chance encounter I met Trenton James, M.D., at the Rural Life Museum off Essen Lane in Baton Rouge. He is a member of the Outreach and Education Committee for the Baton Rouge Camellia Society. He said he'd try to find some 'Joy Kendrick' plants for me.

Nurseryman, Jim Campbell of Covington, La. had grafted two plants and he brought them to me at the recent annual camellia show in Baton Rouge.

I was also introduced to Greenwell Springs camellian Gerald Phares, and his wife Sharon. Gerald is President of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society. It is through the generosity of these three men that they found and obtained four 'Joy Kendrick' camellias for me.

With so many absolutely beautiful camellia varieties available, it amazes me that many individuals know and grow the camellia that Mr. Zerkosky named after me.



Gerald Phares, Joy Kendrick and Dr. Trent James with the plants of "Joy Kendrick" that they had presented to her.

When I think about camellias I cannot think of a lovelier gift to give to a friend, a loved one, or in memory of a special person. Planting a camellia in a private or public garden such as the Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge, La., increases people's interest in camellias. I'd include a camellia society membership. What a special gift!

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From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson
Brookhaven, Mississippi



Believe it or not, it is now time to start getting ready for next seasons' camellia shows. Inspect all your camellias, new and old, and decide which new varieties or which tried and true ones you really want to take to the parties (shows); the girls and boys that are likely to be winners for the coming season. If there some new varieties you lust after and want to get for the next season, this is the time to acquire them. Air layers, grafts or just buy the pretty things. At my age, it is much easier to buy them if I can. Of course, the usual limitations apply: space, pocketbook and willingness of our spouse to do the work.

I really would like to have two of some varieties. One of these is *Freedom Bell*, a consistent winner and a lovely late bloomer. Another would be *Sawada's Dream*, it is a slow grower and the deer have really pruned him back. It is nice to have early bloomers: *Alba Plena*, *Governor Mouton*, and *Shiro Bokuhan* (October). Then the early to mid-season ones: *Tammia*, *Marie Bracey* (var.), *Meiren-Cha*, *Seafoam*, *Black Gold* (var.). After that, *Mrs. Charles Cobb*, *Prof. Sargent*, *Fukurin-Ikku*, *Rose Dawn* and all the other beauties. Someday I hope to have *Kuro Tsubaki* come out for just one show. He went to one but that was several years back. It is now May 7 and he has blooms and buds that will be pushed off by new growth!

Being a lazy gardener, I only prune for dieback. I will give everybody some cottonsead meal and if any look anemic, they will get iron. The only other pruning is to remove understock foliage. My daughter in Baton Rouge is a florist and likes that foliage since it is free and lasts a very long time. I trust her with pruning shears as she was a horticulture major at L.S.U. and does a great job. For a lazy gardener camellias look fantastic all year with no problems like picky azaleas. Perhaps I am prejudiced about azaleas, having killed them in five different states. The native azaleas I can grow, but the others just won't do anything for me. I think that they don't like me! There seem to be some plants like that. Years ago I grew African violets. They were very easy. I have twenty-five blue ribbons I won with them. But there is no way in the world grape ivy, dracena, and schefflera will do anything for me. My mother, who had a very green thumb, would periodically announce that "any fool can grow grape ivy." Well, not this fool. She also said that about some recipes, but that is another story. To get back to the subject of gardening, I have decided that as much as I love camellias, I am still lazy and that is one of the reasons I love them. They do not require constant care and attention. Have a happy and lazy summer!



First Annual Local Camellia Show - Birmingham

By Dave Glass

It's early February and the weather is wet, cold and windy in Birmingham. Prospects would not be bright for locally grown blooms if the Birmingham Camellia Show were to be held the second weekend of the month, as has traditionally been the case. This year however, we broke with tradition and scheduled our show for February 23-24 in order to encourage more local area growers to enter outdoor blooms. Voila, the weather cooperated with our plan and warmed up nicely at just the right time.

Thanks to the contributions of many, the First Annual Local Camellia Show was nothing short of a resounding success. The blooms were spectacular and numerous. A total of 269 camellias grown outdoors in the greater Birmingham area were entered into the competition, and an additional 49 display blooms enhanced the picture. Local members served as judges for the show, in teams led by ACS accredited judges Bill Dodson, Lee Poe, Jr. (Akin, SC), and Tom Warriner (Crestview, FL).



Local members Dwayne Woodard, Brenda Glass, ACS Judge Bill Dodson, Bill Hansford, Pat Cosgrove and Carol Keller take a brief break from their judging



Red outdoor blooms



ACS Judge Tom Warriner (Pensacole, FL) is joined by local members Louise Wrinkle, Elizabeth Chastain, and Frances Owens in judging bloom entries.



Ann Dodson, ASC Judge Lee Poe (Aiken, SC), and Grace Buetner prepare to judge variegated blooms.

Best in Show was Elaine's Betty Red



Louise Wrinkle, Dot Poe, Frances Owens, Lee Poe, and Tom Warriner survey the contention table before voting on the winning blooms.

The following were awarded hand painted camellia mugs or crystal camellia plates for their winning entries:

Best White – Bill & Sue Burnham, Best Red – George McMillan III, Best Pink – Elizabeth Chastain, Best Variegated – Ann Dodson, Best Heritage Camellia – Bill & Sue Burnham, Best Reticulata – Brenda Glass, Best Miniature – Grace Buetner, Best Member Bloom – Brenda Glass. Best Nonmember bloom was won by George McMillan, Jr. and best Novice Bloom went to Margie Thomas, also a nonmember. The Best in Show title was won by Ann Dodson for her amazing camellia japonica “Elaine’s Betty Red”. If we had awarded a sweepstakes title, Danny and Jeannine Walker would have won by entering the most outdoor blooms. Bill and Louise Hairston graciously provided a remarkable selection of camellias from their greenhouse for the enjoyment of all.

After judging was complete, everyone enjoyed the fellowship of a barbeque lunch in a nearby room, thanks particularly to the efforts of Elizabeth Chastain and helpers. The show was open to the public for viewing the blooms during Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Turnout was excellent, with an estimated 200-250 visitors enjoying the camellia blooms.



Judges' School and Re-Accreditation Symposium

By Lisa P. Miller

Photographs by Susan Moran

A Judges' School and Re-Accreditation Symposium was held April 6, 2013, at the First United Methodist Church, 2301 15th Street, Gulfport, Mississippi, with four candidates applying for novice judge and twenty judges seeking re-accreditation.

Governing Procedures and Judging of American Camellia Society Cooperative Shows served as the standard for the rules and regulations followed at the competitive exhibits.

Presenters and their topics included Jim Campbell on "The Do's and Don'ts of Judging," Marie Mizell covered "ACS Cooperative Show Rules," Paul Huerkamp discussed "Rules of Judging Horticultural Exhibits," Bob Stroud



Jim Campbell and Carol Comber



Speaker Paul Huerkamp



Speaker Marie Mizell



Novice judges Dana Ladner and John Causey from Covington, LA



L. to r. Jimmy Walker, Pam Manis, Leo Brown and Paul Huerkamp, listen to lecture.



Speaker Bob Stroud



Speaker Al Breeland



*The 10 bloom identification test.
l. to r. Pam Manis, Judy Kerr, Joan Blanchard and Paul*

reviewed “Seedling and Sports,” while Al Breeland presented the topic of “Certificates and Awards.”

A light lunch and dessert was served after the presentations after which the four candidates took the test for novice judge while Jim Campbell and Paul Huerkamp proceeded into the re-accreditation session.

Good fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance and the door prize of assorted gardening tools was won by Paul Huerkamp.

A heartfelt thanks to all who were instrumental in helping with the symposium, with special thanks to Carol Comber and to Jim Campbell who stepped up at the last minute to lead the instruction in lieu of the late Mrs. Elaine Smelley. Without their help, the symposium could not have happened.

ROOTING CAMELLIA CUTTINGS

By Kenn Campbell

June through August are excellent months for rooting camellia cuttings. Many camellia enthusiasts seem to be convinced that grafting is the fastest and surest way to propagate their favorite flower and the rooting of cuttings has been largely ignored. In Japan, Australia, and other countries, propagation is done largely by rooting cuttings.

There are many methods and media for rooting cuttings, but I will describe a couple of methods I have used which works well for a few to about 50 cuttings.

A cutting box is made from a styrofoam ice chest as described in the sketch on page 17. It is light in weight and easily handled.

Select hardened current year growth and take cuttings 2" to 6" long. Remove all but 2 leaves and terminal bud. Write the name of the variety on the leaf with a ball point pen. Moisten the cutting and dip the stem into rooting powder, tap off the excess and place it in the rooting medium (see sketch) with just leaves and terminal bud above the medium. Actually none of these dimensions or procedures seem to be critical and cuttings will root if in the rooting medium.

When all cuttings are placed in the medium, moisten thoroughly, put on plastic cover, and set in a shady spot. Very little attention is required until the cuttings are rooted. I usually check my box every month or so to make sure it doesn't dry out.

Rooting time varies from about two months to six months. (Some never do put out roots.) Cuttings can be checked after two or three months by lifting them out of the medium. If they are not rooted, they will come out clean. Some may show a callus at this stage. If they are rooted, a ball of the vermiculite-perlite medium will come out with the cutting. Cuttings may be put back into the medium without apparent damage. When the cuttings

have developed a nice little ball of roots, lift them out and pot them up in pots or cans to be left until a strong root system develops. They are then ready to plant out in the garden or given to friends.

Rooted cuttings can be left in the cutting box almost indefinitely if you don't get time to take care of them when you would like to do so.

They won't grow, but they will just sit and wait for you.

Incidentally, the cutting box is a good way to keep scions for grafting at a later date. I have taken unrooted cuttings out of the box and grafted them six months later with success.

Another method I have used is much simpler for a few cuttings. Fill a 1 or 2 gal. pot with rooting medium and insert cuttings into medium. Water thoroughly and after draining place the pot with cuttings into a large plastic bag such as a dry cleaning wrapper.



LEAVE 2 LEAVES
AND TERMINAL
BUD

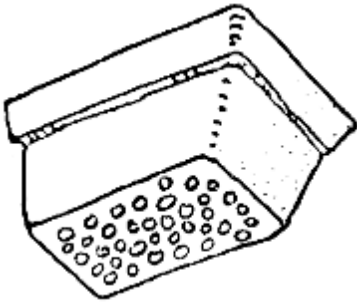


MAKE
DIAGONAL CUT
BELOW A LEAF
NODE

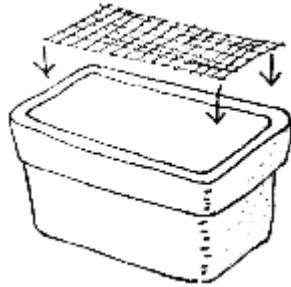
CUTTING

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A HANDY CUTTING BOX



1. PUNCH DRAINAGE HOLES IN BOTTOM



2. INSTALL SCREEN WIRE OR OTHER MESH IN BOTTOM

CLEAR PLASTIC TOP. HOLD IN PLACE WITH NAILS.

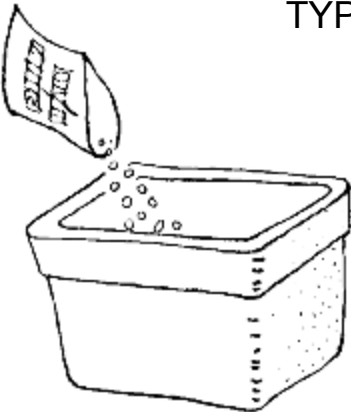
FOAM PLASTIC ICE BOX

$\frac{1}{2}$ VERMICULITE PLUS $\frac{1}{2}$ PERLITE ROOTING MEDIUM.

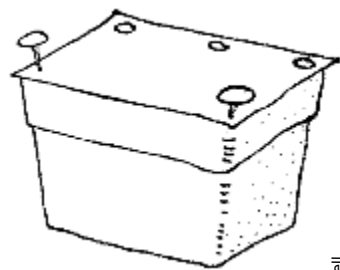
WIRE SCREEN OR NYLON MESH

DRAINAGE HOLES

TYPICAL SECTION



3. FILL BOX HALF FULL OF MEDIUM



4. TACK PLASTIC COVER IN PLACE

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

51st Annual Meeting.

October 14 & 15, 2013

*By Ed and Vickie Baugh
Camellia Club of Mobile*

The two day program will be in Spanish Fort, Alabama, on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

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



The Center is situated on the Mobile Bay Causeway (Hwy 98). Three buildings are part of the meeting complex – an auditorium, a reception hall, and a delta wildlife museum.

EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER

Plant Breeder Buddy Lee, Developer of the Encore Azaleas.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Donnie Barnett, Owner of the Fairhope Tea Plantation

Detailed information on the conference will be mailed in early registration format.

Camellia Websites

American Camellia Society

www.americancamellias.org

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

Baton Rouge Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/brcamellias

Birmingham Camellia Society

www.birminghamcamellias.com

Brookhaven Camellia Society

www.homerrichardson.com/camellia

Camellia Society of North Florida

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html

Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX

www.coushattacamelliasociety.org

Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety

Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society

www.afn.org/-camellia/

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.gulfcoastcamellias.org

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society

Mobile Camellia Society

www.mobilecamellia.org

Northshore Camellia Society

www.northshorecamelliasociety.org

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

GCCS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2013

- Alden**, Brenda & Tommy, 3204 Burnett Road, Byron, GA 31008
478-825-1337
- American Camellia Society**, 100 Masee Lane. Fort Valley, GA 31030-
9100 478-967-2358
- Andrews**, Patrick 950 E. 189th Lane, Citra, FL 32113-2219
352-595-3365
- Atlantic Coast Camellia Society**, P.O. Box 1087, Clinton, NC 28329-
1087
- Ballard**, Michael, P.O. Box 66196, Mobile, AL 36600-1196
- Barlow**, Lawrence & Shelly, 3591 Kentucky Trail, Chesapeake, VA
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- Baugh**, Al & Vickie, 31287 Blakeley Ridge Ct., Spanish Fort, AL 36527-
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850-438-2585 wymbennett8@aol.com
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601-754-9987 s-bishop1@bellsouth.net
- Blanchard**, Joan, 2020 W. Romana St., Pensacola, FL 32502
- Boudreaux**, Dudley & Lois, P.O. Box 146, Port Neches, TX 77651-
0146 409-722-4994, dboudreaux@gt.rr.com
- Braud**, Danny & Darianne, 21315 Sidney Road, Grosse Tete 70740
225-648-2655
- Breeland**, Alfred & Renae, 154 Edgewater Dr., Biloxi, 39531-4709
228-388-5199 tobyfatcat@bellsouth.net
- Broders, Jr.**, Leo E., 543 Swyburn Dr., Baton Rouge, 70808
225-766-3972 leoer@bellsouth.net
- Bush**, Allen, P.O. Box 246, Blytheville, AR 72316-0246
870-763-1776 ajb1@swbell.net
- Bush**, Maggie, 200 Dominican Dr. #3108, Madison, MS 39110-8630
- Butler**, Fay, 11545 Rue De Ponti, Baton Rouge, LA 70810
215-761-7818 fay38@aol.com
- Butler**, Mr. & Mrs. Tom, 1265 Knollwood, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
215-924-5652 mairhelene@aol.com
- Campbell**, James Green, 16068 Riverside Dr., Covington, LA 70435-
7923 985-630-9899 rivercamellia@bellsouth.net
- Campbell**, Kenn & Ruby, 3310 Fairway Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809-
1817 225-923-1697 kennbc@cox.net
- Causey**, John, 6167 N. Greenburg Rd, Summit, MS 39666
601-754-2694 john_causev@att.net

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2013 Dues - Still \$10

Check your mailing label and if there is an asterisk after your name, we haven't yet received your 2013 dues. Please submit to Treasurer Peter Soules (see page 31 for address).



C. japonica 'Broadwater,' 1968, L. B. Wilson, Gulfport, Mississippi

In the Summer Garden

By Art Landry



The summer months of growing camellias may not be as exciting or as much fun as the fall, winter and early spring when they are blooming, but care of the plants during the summer is equally important. Normally the biggest concern is that the plants get enough water during dry periods. The plants need one inch (1") of water each week that it does not rain to thrive and container plants need their water several times a week.

Spot spraying for pests and diseases can be done as required during the summer months. Don't spray with oil emulsion at full concentration during the heat of summer as damage to the foliage could occur. Use about half normal mixing ratio. Sprays other than oil should be safe to use. Cygon or Orthene can be used as a foliar spray in the summer months since painting the trunks with the concentrate seems to be effective only in early spring when the sap is rising. Neem oil is effective in preventing pests and should be used carefully as other oil sprays. Neem Oil is now the active ingredient in "Triple Action" as well as several rose sprays.

Be careful not to over-fertilize camellia plants, especially in late summer. Wait until newly planted camellias are established for a year before fertilizing using a time release formula with trace elements

like Growers Supreme or Nursery Special. After plants are established and 3-4 feet tall, you can reduce the fertilizer or eliminate altogether if the plants are kept well mulched each year. The decaying mulch will provide enough nutrients for the plant to thrive, especially if the plant is pruned every year. Plants grown in containers need fertilizer each 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 work involved as well as provide a more constant feeding.

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 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.

The summer months of July and August are good for air-layering and rooting cuttings of camellias. See separate articles this issue.

Editor's Note

By Kenn Campbell



An Endowment Fund to support and improve the GCCS publications was established in 1993. The dues do not cover the total cost of the publications and the board wanted to keep dues at a low level. Donations were received and deposited in an investment account. Only the earnings from the investments can be used to support the publications.

As the Fund grew, the first improvement made in 1994 was to give the *Camellian* a color cover. The next improvement was in 2007 when the *Camellian* became a full color publication. This was a great asset to a publication devoted to beautiful flowers and I hope we never have to stop. And what is amazing, the dues are still at the same low level they were in 1993.

Investment earnings have gone down and printing costs and postage have all gone up and will continue to do so, so the Endowment Fund still needs to grow. If you haven't done so recently, please consider making a contribution or memorial donation to the GCCS Endowment Fund. We are a non-profit 501C(3) organization and all donations are deductible from your Federal Tax.

Deadline for the Autumn issue is 15 August 2013.

My friend Patti Coller of Spokane, Washington sent me these pictures of a beautiful, healthy camellia growing outside her kitchen window. Here is a camellia in full bloom without the first sign of petal blight - a rare sight around here. Some of you old-timers may remember, in the good old days back in the 50s and 60s, how our gardens looked before petal blight was invented. These photos bring back fond memories.



An 'historical variety' c. japonica "Kumasaka," Japan 1896 - Tokoyo Nursery.

Camellia Quiz Answers

1. Min. Japonica - *Man Size*
2. C. Reticulata - *Frank Houser Var.*
3. Min. Japonica - *Fircone Var.*
4. Small Jap. - *Grace Albritton*
5. Med. Japonica - *Black Magic*
6. Very Large Jap. *Lauren Tudor*

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join



C. japonica "K. Sawada" by K. Sawada, Overlook Nursery, Crichton, AL 1940



C. japonica "Duchess of Covington" sport of Duchess of Sutherland, S.J. Katz, Covington, LA 1953.



C. japonica "Bloody Mary" by Vi Stone, Baton Rouge, LA 1976



C. japonica "Dick Hardison" by D. Hardison, Talahassee. FL 1997

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 August through July 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 Peter Soules, 22128 5th St., Abita Springs, LA 70420.

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THE LATE SHOW

These camellias were putting on their last show of the year on 2 April 2013. A heavy rain the next day finished off what was left. They are left to right:
Front row - Frank Houser Var., Rebel Yell, Lila Naff, Gullio Nuccio Var.

2nd row - Pink Pagoda, R. L. Wheeler, Lady Laura, Woodville Red.

3rd row - Conquistador, Erin Farmer, Lil Schaefer, Princess Lavender.

4th row - Funny Face Betty, Wonderland, Betty Sheffield Blush, Elisabeth.
Top- Pink Perfection, Cherries Jubilee.