

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Autumn 2015

Volume 41 No. 4



Photo by Kenn Campbell

Camellia japonica 'Mariana (Red Waratah)' 1866

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society

The Gulf Coast Camellian

Volume 41 No. 4 Autumn 2015

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From the Cover



Camellia japonica ‘Mariana (Red Waratah)’ is a crimson lake, medium, anemone form japonica introduced in 1866 by Sir William MacArthur from Sydney, Australia. This specimen is growing at the Burden Museum and Gardens in Baton Rouge, LA.

See article on conservation of historical varieties on page 18.

President's Message

Jim Dwyer
Foley, Alabama



I hope everyone is looking forward to our October 19th and 20th meeting at Hollywood Casino as much as I am. Everyone should have received their registration packet by now. In addition, Homer Richardson has put the registration information on the GCCS website (www.gulfcoastcamellias.org/). Andy Houdek and the New Orleans camellia club are planning a great meeting. Andy and Joyce have donated two beautiful framed camellia prints for the raffle. If you have any items for the silent auction or plants for the live auction, they will be greatly appreciated. If you can, please send Dick Hooton the names of the plants you are bringing so he can provide descriptions, and labels and photos.

Steve Mannis, Gulfport Camellia Society president, assisted by Bettye Hooton, will be in charge of the silent auction. It would be helpful if you could send him a description of the items you are bringing. Please help promote GCCS and our October meeting by encouraging your local camellia club members to get involved. Our meeting is a great place to find out about the latest trends in camellia culture and to get information from other camellia people about the best new camellia cultivars.

I am looking forward to some cooler weather. Although we have not had any record high temperatures, the day after day above average temperatures makes gardening miserable. Bloom buds are showing on my camellias and I am seeing secondary growth shoots on many of my

camellias in spite of the high temperatures.

Again, please send photos and other information about your club to Kenn Campbell for inclusion in *The Gulf Coast Camellian*. I'm sure he would appreciate articles on camellia culture, breeding, and other topics that might be of interest to our readers.

Remember the October GCCS meeting is the best way to kick off the camellia season. Hope to see you there!



From a Gardener's Journal

By Lynn Richardson
Brookhaven, Mississippi



FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN

This is the time of year when camellia people can take the time to think about their plants and gardens. Perhaps too much time, according to my husband! There is not a lot to do to camellias this time of year, except that their requirements for water are met. It is too late to prune and they are a lazy gardener's plant, anyway. At least this lazy gardener. Now we can wander around, look at the overall structure of the garden and dream. There is time to consider moving some plants that are not doing as well as they should and perhaps replacing them. Maybe there are some varieties that would do as well or better in certain spots. Our plants are all japonicas, sasanquas, or nonretic hybrids. Having learned painful lessons about garden overreaching and trying to grow something that just will not do well here, I resolve to try and do better. I know that since we are out in the country, even though it is zone 8, we cannot have retics and nonretics that will do well here. The pain occurred in my wallet and emotions as lovely plants just slowly declined and died; they did not like it here. That is why I am falling in love again with some lovely varieties that will do well here, should we be able to get them. Some that come to mind are 'Shiro Chan,'



C. japonica 'Shiro Chan' Domoto, 1953



C. japonica 'Margaret Davis Picotee' Homeyer, 1986



C. japonica 'Dahlongea' Homeyer, 1986



C. japonica 'Elegans (Chandler)' England, 1831



C. japonica 'Sawada's Mahogany' K. Sawada 1971

'Margaret Davis Picotee,' 'Dahlongea,' 'Ville de Nantes,' 'Sawada's Dream,' 'Sawada's Mahogany,' 'White Lotus' and 'Chandlerii Elegans.' There are many more. It is just a matter of looking at photos and making a list - a lengthy one, of course. Many of the others are not in commerce as much as they once were, so if you are very fortunate and have a friend with an older garden and lots of older camellias, you may be able to take cuttings. Many of the losses we have suffered were at the hands of deer, horses and occasionally a cow or two. Sometimes drought or just being in the wrong place was the problem. It would be lovely to find a nursery with a section devoted to some of the older varieties, in addition to the new lovely darlings.

I have learned to leave some of our smaller plants in pots until they are bigger, then plant them where they are to live. That way you can keep up with their progress and make sure they are thriving when you do plant them. We always plant in fall and winter, not spring. It seems to work out better for us.

Enough whining! The G.C.C.S. will have a conference in October at the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis. The dates are Oct. 19 and 20. Details are on the ACS website. These are always a lot of fun. There are always great speakers and always something new to be learned. Of course the food is great and the silent auction and plant auction give plenty of scope for overreaching! So pack up, save your plant money and join us. Hope to see y'all there.



Vines Growing Among Your Shrubs? A Handy Solution

By F. Norman Vickers, Pensacola Camellia Club

Air potato vine (*Discorea bulbifera*) is a common troublesome vine in our area. It was introduced into this country from Africa in the early 1900s. The vine can grow up to 60 feet and, like kudzu -- another foreign import -- can kill trees and other vegetation. The air potato vine also has potato-like growths at the roots.

One may dig up the roots and eradicate the plant that way. However, the problem becomes complicated when the vine has roots intertwined with a favorite shrub. The air potato is sensitive to chemicals found in commercial products such as Garlon 3A, Killzall or Roundup.



Air potato vine growing in Loropetalum shrub.



Potato-like growth at root ready to sprout new vines.



Aqua-pix or equivalent may be purchased at florist or hobby shops. Or perhaps you already have some left over from cut flowers which were given to you.



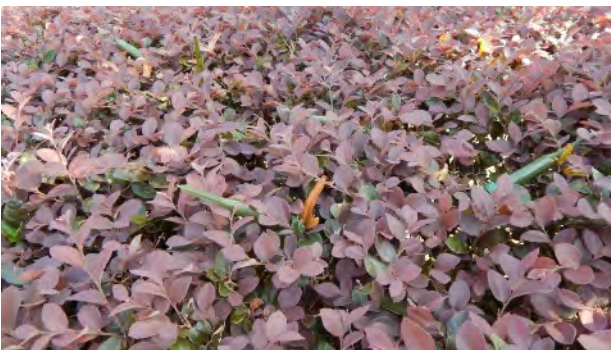
Select vine of proper size (1/8" to 5/16") to fit in hole of Aqua-pix.



Aqua-pix with Roundup inserted on air-potato vine.



A few days later the foliage of the air potato vine begins to die.



Several Aqua-pix on various branches of the vine will speed its destruction.

I have used the following method to good effect previously. Recently I noted luxuriant growth of air potato vine among my neighbor's Loropetalum shrubs. Because Loropetalum (a.k.a. Chinese fringe tree) has purplish foliage, it occurred that this would make for a photo demonstration because of the different coloration of leaves between the vine and the Loropetalum.

Fill Aqua-pix (test-tube with rubber stopper with hole in it) with normal dilution of Roundup. Cut the air potato vine and insert the cut-end in the prepared Aqua-pix. The air-potato vine will die in a few days. Return and gather the Aqua-pix for your next potato vine conquest!

Aqua-pix or equivalent may be purchased at florist or hobby shops. Or perhaps you already have some left over from cut flowers which were given to you.

This method should work well on other hard to manage vines such as Virginia Creeper, Bushkiller, and others.



Norman Vickers is a retired gastroenterologist and is a long-time member of the Pensacola Camellia Club. His parents were in the wholesale plant nursery business, mostly cabbage and tomato plants. He says that cabbage and tomato plants financed his medical education. His interest in camellias also began early as there were always camellias in the home flower garden.



A Little Bit of Whimsy

By Ruby G. Campbell

From the beginning of recorded history, special meanings and significance have been assigned to different flowers and plants. The symbolic use of flowers is mentioned in Egyptian inscriptions, Chinese writings, and in Greek and Roman mythology. Subtle and secret messages can be given by choosing flowers carefully. It is believed that the flower language began in Turkey during the seventeenth century. Romantic lovers began using floral exchanges to convey emotional messages using the flower meanings. The Victorians became very knowledgeable in the flower language and chose their bouquets carefully. Flowers gave them a secret language that enabled them to communicate feelings that the propriety of the times would not allow because of the strict restraints on courtship and displays of emotion. Camellias were no exception.

The flower's perfectly formed symmetrical petals make it a symbol of perfection. The soft, round petals feature a gentle curve symbolizing refinement. The flower is popular in southwestern China where it grows wild and symbolizes the purest love.

Unlike most flowers, the calyx falls right along with the petals after blooming, and this is said to represent an everlasting union between lovers in Chinese folklore. Camellias have long been used as a token for showing devotion by young lovers, as the petals reflect the lady and the calyx represents the man who has been entrusted to protect her. In this poetic analogy, the man does hold her and protect her from



White camellias signify admiration, luck, perfection and loveliness.

C. japonica 'Alba Plena' China to England 1792



Red camellias stand for passion and excellence.

C. japonica 'Black Magic' 1992 Nuccio's, California



Pink camellias represent longing and devotion.
C. japonica 'Pink Pagoda' 1963, R.D. Moore, Los Gatos, California



Blue, if it can be found, tells the recipient, "You are the flame in my heart."
C. hiemalis 'Green's Blues' 2004 Bobby Green, Fairhope, Alabama

life right into death and represents the undying love between a man and a woman.

The camellia flower, which represents love and devotion as well as gratitude and perfection, is often given as a gift of affection and used in wedding decorations and bouquets. As with most flowers, camellias' colors represent different meanings: White camellias signify admiration, luck, perfection and loveliness. Pink camellias represent longing and devotion, and red camellias stand for passion and excellence. Blue, if it can be found, tells the recipient, "You are the flame in my heart."

Although the Chinese associations between camellias and love refer to the flower in general, other parts of Asia hold special beliefs about white camellias in particular. In Korean culture, since 1200 BC, white camellias have been used in weddings because they symbolize a long and faithful marriage. On the other hand, some people in Japan associate white camellias with death, so giving them to someone during a business meeting is thought to bring the receiver bad luck or worse.

In the West, since the Victorian era, camellias often have been associated with passion and love. Wearing a camellia purportedly helps you find a romantic partner, while giving a small bouquet of the flowers conveys your affection for another person. When making such a bouquet, remember that pink camellias represent longing; red suggests that the person sets your heart aflame, and white means you think the other person is adorable. So choose wisely!



Growing Your Own Understock From Seed

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA

Growing sasanqua seedlings is simple and easy and can provide you a continuous supply of understock for grafting.

Harvest the seed in late summer when mature. You can nick the hulls and let them dry until they pop open or just go ahead and cut the hulls off with a knife and plant them right away.



Scatter seed on surface and cover with peat moss.



Seed planted in October 2014 are ready for planting this fall.

To Plant: Fill a pot almost full with your favorite potting mix. Mine is an unmeasured, unscientific mixture of pine bark, sand, compost, peat moss and perlite. Just dump stuff in until it looks right.

Scatter the seed on the surface and cover with potting mix, compost or peat moss. I like peat moss because it has no weed seed and helps maintain the soil acidity.

After a good watering, set the pot in a shady spot. If you live where squirrels live, they **will** dig them up so protect with a wire cage.

The seeds will sprout throughout the winter and spring and by the following late fall should be ready to pot-up or line-out. A year later some will be large enough to graft.

Plant a few seed every year and keep a steady supply of understock ready to go.



Set in shady spot until ready to plant.



Row of Sasanqua seedlings lined out in 2014. Note 45" plant in center with 1/2" caliper. It is more than twice as tall as its largest neighbor. I will have to root some of these next year to find out if this a genetic trait.

Camellia Show Dates 2015 - 2016

17-18 October 2015 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society National Fair Show
Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry Georgia.

23-24 November 2015 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society State Fair Show
Byron Municipal Complex, Byron, GA

7 November 2015 - Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society
Lyman Community Center, 13472 Highway 49, Gulfport. MS (4 mi. North of I 10)

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

5 December 2015 - Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA
Saint Margaret Mary Gym, Robert Road, Slidell, LA.

12 December 2015 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL
First Presbyterian Church, 33 E. Gregory St., Pensacola, FL.

9 January 2016 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA
St. Scholastica's Academy Gym., 122 North Massachusetts St, Covington, LA.

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 - Coughatta 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.

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

30 January 2016 - Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA

30 January 2016 - Lakeland Camellia Show, Lakeland. FL

6 February 2016 - Brookhaven Camellia Society, Brookhaven, MS
Brookhaven Recreation Department, Highway 51 N.

6 February 2016 - Coughatta 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.

13 February 2016 - Thomasville Garden Club, Thomasville, GA

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.

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.

Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual Meeting

October 19th & 20th, 2015

Hollywood Casino, Bay St. Louis, MS

Have you sent in your registration form for the Annual Meeting yet? If not, do it now so you won't miss all the fun. There will be three auctions, a raffle, guest speakers, and plenty of food, drink and fellowship.

Plant Auction: If you are bringing plants for either of the live auctions please bring them to the GCCS Registration area when you register. Dick Hooton or one of his minions will be there to receive them. **Prior to the meeting**, please let Dick know what plants you will be bringing. You may contact him at: bdhooton@cox.net or (850) 969-0001.

Silent Auction: Items will be displayed in the Cypress Ballroom all day Tues. Bidding will end at 6:30 pm Tues. and must be paid for by 7pm. **Prior to the**



meeting, please let Bette Hooton or Steve Manis know what items you will be bringing. Contact information for Bette is: bdhooton@cox.net or (850) 969-0001. Contact information for Steve is: steven.manis@mgccc.edu or (228) 249-4115. Please bring the item to the GCCS Registration area when you register and Bette or Steve will accept it.

Raffle: This year's raffle item is two exceptional matted and framed Camellia prints. Tickets are available for purchase via the registration packet or at the meeting until the time of the drawing at the Banquet.

Speakers: For the Educational Session speakers will include Florence Crowder, Jim Campbell and Celeste Richard. Banquet speaker will be Buddy Lee inventor of the re-blooming Encore azaleas.



Gulf Coast Camellia Society officers and advisors met in Bay St. Louis, MS July 15 to plan the fall conference. The conference will be held at the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis October 19-20, 2015.

Left to Right: Jim Campbell, President, American Camellia Society; Ken Campbell, Editor, The Camellian; Jim Dwyer, President; Rebecca Christian, Secretary; Mike Ruth, Treasurer; and Roger Roy, Vice President.

If you need a registration form contact Mike Ruth at (225) 767-1388 or mruthmd@gmail.com



CAMELLIA TRIVIA

by
Ruby G. Campbell

[Beginning in this issue, a series of items involving little-known “facts” concerning camellias will appear. These short sketches will include brief accounts of the significance of camellias in various aspects of society from art and literature, to politics and sports, as well as societal and cultural events. Each will begin with “Did You Know . . . ? Hopefully, they will be met with favorable responses.]

Did You Know....?

The white camellias is a symbol of New Zealand women’s right to vote and is featured on the country’s ten-dollar note.

New Zealand women were the first in the world to gain the right to vote. On 19 September 1893, when the governor, Lord Glasgow, signed a new Electoral Act into law, New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world to grant the right to vote to all adult women regardless of economic status or race. At the time this was a truly radical change: many other democracies did not allow women to vote until decades later. For example, women in Australia had to wait another nine years before they could vote in 1902; Canadian women received the right to vote in 1919; women in the USA were not given the right to vote until 1920; while in the United Kingdom, voting rights were not given to women until 1928 - thirty-five years after all the

women in New Zealand, including the Maori, had achieved that status.

The start of the campaign was quite modest. In 1887 two petitions signed by 350 women were presented to the House of Representatives. By the next year there were 800 signatures. But after this slow start, suffrage began to pick up major support. In the early 1890s the movement for women’s suffrage, led by Kate Sheppard and involving the Women’s Christian Temperance Union and women’s franchise leagues such as the Tailoresses’ Union, made the issue a matter of national importance. A number of extremely large petitions were presented to Parliament: in



*Kate Sheppard of Christchurch,
the leader of the suffrage campaign.*

1891, nine thousand women signed eight petitions; 1892, six petitions with 19,000 signatures were presented and in early 1893, thirteen petitions containing 32,000 signatures were submitted.

Major opposition to women suffrage came from the liquor industry and from those who believed that a woman's "natural" role as wife and mother was incompatible with politics. Since a good deal of the work for suffrage has been done by the W.C.T.U., it was not difficult for liquor interests to generate fear of prohibition if women won the vote. But the huge number of signatures on the petitions – representing a substantial percentage of the nation's women – were sufficient to get an Electoral Bill passed by the House.

Many rallies and heavy lobbying of Council members, both in person and by telegrams, were conducted by anti-suffragists to pressure legislators to vote "no" and to persuade the Governor not to sign the Bill.

Likewise, the suffragists moved into action with telegrams and with a visible gesture of presenting white camellias to those members of Parliament who had supported women's suffrage. The opponents were sent red camellias. By a vote of 20 to 18, the Electoral Bill became the Electoral Act when the Governor signed the Bill.

Suffrage opponents had warned that delicate 'lady voters' would be jostled and harassed in polling booths by 'boorish and half-



Portrait of an unknown suffragette, (Charles Hemus Studio Auckland, circa 1880.) The sitter wears a white camellia and has cut off her hair, both symbolic of support for advancing women's rights.

drunken men', but in fact the 1893 election was described as the 'best-conducted and most orderly' ever held. According to a Christchurch newspaper, the streets 'resembled a gay garden party' – 'the pretty dresses of the ladies and their smiling faces lighted up the polling booths most wonderfully'.

The white camellia (*Camellia japonica* "Alba Plena") became a symbol of New Zealand women's struggle for the right to vote. It is also featured on the New Zealand ten dollar note alongside Kate



C. japonica 'Alba Plena'

Sheppard, the leader of the Suffrage Movement. It is also shown on the reverse side of the note in a tussie-mussie,



a quaint term from the early 1400s for small, round bouquets of herbs and flowers with symbolic meanings, (In Kate Greenaway's book *The Language of Flowers*, the white camellia japonica symbolizes "Perfected Loveliness.") along with a river scene of the Blue Duck called a Whio (a Maori name pronounced "fee-oh" representing the sound of the male's call).

In 1993, on the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, a new variety of white camellia was created and named after

Kate Sheppard. Parliament celebrated the centenary of women's suffrage by planting 'Kate Sheppard' camellia shrubs in Parliament's garden, and by placing a commemorative time capsule nearby. Various artworks commemorate the

bank near the Information Center to honor the occasion and place white camellias at the memorial.



C. japonica 'Kate Sheppard' in a vase with 'September Snow' rhododendron.



Kate Sheppard National Memorial Reserve, on Oxford Terrace beside the River Avon, Christchurch.



'Kate Sheppard' camellias planted at Parliament in 1993 to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of women getting the vote. Photo: Parliamentary Service.



A schoolgirl plants a 'Kate Sheppard' camellia in a public garden in Hastings on White Camellia Day.

centenary, including sculptural flowers on the walls of the chamber. A select committee room has been dedicated to women in Parliament. A memorial was also unveiled in Christchurch.

September 19th is known as Suffrage Day or White Camellia Day. Every year on this day, at 12.30 p.m. women wearing a white camellia gather at the Kate Sheppard Memorial on the Avon River

Why white camellias were chosen to represent women's right to vote is not known. Most likely it was because the camellias would have been one of the few flowers in plentiful supply in September. Whatever the reason, the white camellia became, and remains, the symbol of women's suffrage in New Zealand.



The Cutting Project Of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society

Several years ago the Baton Rouge Camellia Society decided to start a cutting project to propagate sasanqua understock to support their grafting program. C. Japonicas were later added to the project.

Using salvaged lumber, four mist beds were constructed and piping run for the mist heads. Removable trays were built to fit the mist beds. The beds were covered with shade cloth.

In July each year, members gather in a shady spot nearby to prepare cuttings and stick them in the perlite filled trays. Teams are formed to prepare the cuttings. One person will clip the leaves and stems; another will dip them in rooting hormone and stick them in the tray; while another will make labels to identify the various cuttings. Another group will collect the trays, water them down and truck them to the mist beds.



Members prepare cuttings and fill trays.



Mist heads controlled by leaf valve.



Preparing cuttings



Mist beds



Potted cuttings moved to Hoop House #1



Year old cuttings moved to Hoop House #3



Tim Brown tends to understock in the can yard.

All the mist heads are automatically controlled by a leaf valve. Mist collects on the copper leaf and when it gets heavy it closes the valve. When the leaf dries off it opens the valve until the mist collects on it again.

In the late fall the members assemble again and pot up the rooted cuttings in 4" or 6" pots. The trays of potted cuttings are moved into Hoop House #1 and placed on benches.

Automatic overhead sprinklers water them daily. One member monitors the watering and turns off the sprinklers during rainy periods.

The following year they are repotted and moved into Hoop House #3. (Hoop House #2 houses the current years grafts.) When they have acclimated to the new pots, most of the sasanqua understock is moved to the can yard to stay until they are ready to be used. The japonicas stay in the hoop house until they are ready to sell.



Conservation Of Historic Camellias in the United States

By Florence Crowder,

Member ICS Conservation Working Group, Denham Springs, Louisiana

Approximately 460 pre-1900 japonicas are designated as being “ancient” in the camellia nomenclature books in the USA. These ancient varieties are in danger of being lost because of a number of different factors including lack of interest in propagation of plants in old gardens, loss of labels or records in identifying the varieties, and a lack of knowledge of the location of many gardens in which these ancient plants are growing.

My goal is to present this problem to the American Camellia Society to get assistance in locating and preserving these by including a funded preservation committee as a matter of emphasis within their programs. Many society members, both professional and non-professional, are dedicated to this problem and should be willing to participate.

Within the International Camellia Society Conservation Working Group, of which I am a member, much progress in coordinating efforts to locate pre-1900 US introductions can be made. The ICS is working to develop a system of accurately identifying ancient varieties using morphological and genetic information. The Spanish Camellia Society leads the way in DNA identification with Portugal working closely with them. With the American Camellia Society working with the International Camellia Society, even greater success can be achieved in locating, identifying, preserving and propagating these older varieties as well as making efforts to prevent destruction of older gardens.

What is conservation? It is the principles and practices by which we are

able to preserve the existing order of things from injury or destruction.

The purpose of conservation. It is necessary to continue the order so that future generations will appreciate and become aware of the heritage in order to build toward the future. Once DNA is lost from a link in camellia heritage it is gone forever. Our purpose is to protect the past for the future.



Henry VIII, introduced by Gerbing Camellia Nursery, Fernandina, FL. I registered it last year.

Identify the problem. The public is not properly educated in the seriousness of this problem. Only 300 of the pre-1900 varieties have been located in the United States, but not nearly that number are being propagated for various reasons. The possession of these ancient varieties by those uninterested in propagation can lead to many of these flowers being lost forever is one major concern.. With the backing of the American Camellia Society, this problem could be lessened.

Location. It is essential that the public and camellia groups all over the camellia

growing world assist in locating public and private gardens as this task cannot be done by just a few. There is a need to publicize the urgency of locating the older gardens. I have found that some of these gardens that house US introductions, not found in the United States, are located in other countries. There is a need to travel throughout the United States and elsewhere to properly locate these gardens and secure specimens from them.

Identification. Once older gardens are located, the task is to attempt to identify the camellias within that garden. Do you know what you're looking at? Often identification of the older varieties is very difficult as we seldom see them, if at all. If we have not seen it before, how can we know what it is? Extensive research must go into the proper identification. Today, more than ever before, we have access to a world of information that makes identification more likely. If we're fortunate, we may find an identification label on a plant, however, this does not happen very often. Are we using our resources to the best of our ability?

Threats to conservation. Lack of information regarding the plant is a threat to its survival as a recognized introduction. Sometimes folks are unaware of what the plant is or how to care for it. Lack of concern and neglect is also a problem, even if they do know that it is a camellia. Commercial and residential development play a large part of the destruction of gardens. Nature also plays a part through disease, insects and the natural life span of a plant.

What should be conserved. Certainly we are not able to preserve all 34,000+ known varieties and cultivars so what should be protected? Each person or group needs to

determine what is important and available to them. I am personally interested in preserving the pre-1900 United States introductions. Others preserve those from a particular city or state, and the list of possibilities is endless.

Means and methods of conservation.

Just get in there and do it. I began my own program of conservation when I was attempting to identify the camellias in our family garden. When I discovered that several were quite scarce, I wondered what I might do to solve this problem and were there others elsewhere that may be in the same situation. It was then that I made the decision to focus on the pre-1900s that had been registered in the United States.



Marguerite Gouillion (France 1850 - Drouard) is in our nomenclature but I have not found it in the US. I imported it from France.

I learned that some of the camellias in our family garden had come from France. I wondered if I might find other varieties that I was looking for in that country. If I couldn't locate them on native soil, foreign soil was second best, so I made a number of contacts and off I went. I have made three trips to France, one to Belgium, Italy and England in my search which has been quite successful. Success

has come only with the assistance and contributions of others who helped me in securing the scions, and rooting and growing the scions that I brought back. I could not have done this without the help from The American Camellia Society, Bobby Green Nurseries, Magnolia Gardens, and the Louisiana State University Burden Center and a number of individuals who sent their inventories to me so I could locate the plants of interest.



Palais de Cristal (Palace of Crystal) orig. Italy. In van Houtte Pere catalog 1889. Bill Ray called it to my attention as being mentioned in one of the ACS yearbooks, '74, I think, as being at Mt Hermon, La. I located it but have not produced but a few. I gave it to Bobby Green to further it along.

Useable tools. What would we do without the Internet? It has been one of the most valuable tools for me. Books, visits to gardens, requests for inventories are helpful, but the most valuable of all is personal contact. Talk to knowledgeable people who are willing to assist you. I have found that personal contacts have been invaluable in my endeavor. Communication is the key to success.

Means to include more participants. Assistance in any project is always necessary. You never know when someone will have the answer needed. One you least expect may know of a long

neglected garden or even one plant that has been in its place forever. Include as many helpers as you are able to find.

A great interest exists within garden clubs concerning history and preservation and these clubs should be included in the effort to locate, identify, and save these old japonicas. The thousands of members within the Federated Garden Clubs and Garden Clubs of America could be a definite asset in the above goals. I recently wrote an article on the history of camellias for the Garden Club of South Carolina and have had many positive comments in regard to their interest.

Celeste Richard, Executive Director of the American Camellia Society recently formed a group of plant societies within the United States to coordinate efforts in developing interaction within these groups. A similar effort can be made within the societies of the American Camellia Society.

Ultimate goals. The goals set out by the Great Gardens of America Preservation Alliance at the onset of their organization in 2008 were to locate, identify, preserve, distribute and protect endangered species of azaleas and camellias. To me, this covers it.

Responsible body for coordination. I would like the American Camellia Society to be the agency to assume this position of preserving camellias in the United States and to work with other countries in their preservation efforts. The above mentioned societies and others should continue to work independently but have the ACS determine a plan of action, and assemble, coordinate and distribute the information.



The Benefits and Charms of Tea

By Terri G. Peterson

Tea, whether traditional or herbal, has long been rumored to bring health benefits to those who drink it. Traditional teas — black, green and white teas made from the leaves of the tea shrub, *Camellia sinensis* — have been found to contain antioxidant compounds known as flavonoids, which can help protect tea



Camellia sinensis, “the tea plant of commerce”

drinkers against a range of chronic illnesses ranging from cancer to stroke.

In recent years, researchers have proven the veracity of folklore claims that herbal teas are good for your health. Teas like chamomile, peppermint and hibiscus have been found in controlled studies to bring measurable benefits to those who drink them.

The proven benefits of herbal teas.

People have traditionally used chamomile tea to ease stress and promote relaxation. It’s also been used as a remedy for illnesses ranging from menstrual cramps to the common cold. Researchers at Imperial College London have proven that the health benefits of drinking chamomile tea are more than just rumor. In a study of the effects of tea made from German chamomile, the researchers found that chamomile tea does have antibacterial properties which can boost the immune

system to help the body fight off colds and infections. They also found that it contains glycine, an amino acid known to ease muscle spasms, relax the nerves and act as a sedative.

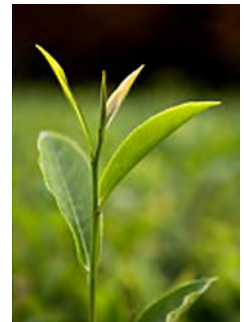
Peppermint tea has been found to have powerful antiviral and antimicrobial properties, making it another tasty option for boosting immunity. Teas made with peppermint also contain antioxidants, which protect against cancer, heart disease, clogged arteries, stroke and neurological disorders. Peppermint teas may fight tumors and ease allergy symptoms.

One study has found that hibiscus, a type of herbal tea made from the popular flower of the same name, helps lower blood pressure in some people with slightly elevated blood pressure levels.

Teas like Echinacea (or purple coneflower) one of today’s most studied herbs, was used by a number of Native American tribes for hundreds of years before it was introduced into Western herbal traditions in the late 1800s. This pleasant-tasting, mildly minty, with a twist of citrus, herbal blend supports a healthy immune system.

Traditional tea is good for you, too.

There are four primary types of traditional tea, but they all come from the same tea plant. The differences result from the way the tea leaves are processed after they are plucked from the bush. Fine plucking, the taking of only the



top two leaves and the leaf bud from the *c. sinensis* plant, is done by hand, and is one of the keys to producing a quality tea. For ease of plucking, the bushes are kept to a height of about three feet.

Black tea makers air-dry newly harvested tea leaves, then crush them to begin a natural process that turns them a pleasing coppery color. At the right moment, the leaves are dried under high temperature to seal in the juices and flavor. This process causes the leaves to turn black, hence the name “black tea.”



Oolong tea, a first cousin to black tea, undergoes the same process, but the air-drying time is shorter, resulting in less natural fermentation and a different flavor.



Green tea is produced quite differently. Within twenty-four hours of harvest, the leaves are steamed to prevent fermentation. This results in much change in the character of the tea. Green tea is considered the healthiest beverage on the planet. It is loaded with antioxidants and nutrients that have powerful effects on the body. This includes improved brain function and dental health, fat loss, a lower risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease, Type II diabetes, and many other incredible benefits. Generally, it promotes a better and longer life. Many major toothpaste



companies have even taken the positive effects of green tea into consideration, and green tea infused toothpaste are now on the market (example: Crest toothpaste).

Proponents of white tea, made with tea leaves that have been neither cured nor fermented, however, often disagree as to the greater benefits of green over white. White tea leaves are harvested at a younger age than green tea leaves. White tea is considered rare and is usually more expensive than green, as it can only be hand picked during a few days of early spring and has to be handled with much care.

White tea is steamed rapidly and then dried. White tea contains the same types of antioxidants as green tea, but in greater quantity because it is processed less. It may also have less caffeine. But the caffeine in the green tea has been shown to have a positive effect on green tea's ability to help with weight loss – so choosing green over white in this instance maybe the more beneficial. (Although the amount of caffeine in tea varies according to the type of tea and the length of time steeped, generally speaking green tea contains around 20mg. of caffeine, compared to white which has around 15mg. In comparison, black tea contains around 45mg.) So while white tea, which has a smoother, gentler, almost sweet taste and contains more antioxidants and less caffeine, may be the healthier choice, green tea is easier to find and cheaper to buy. Green tea has also been studied more than white. A tip when buying white or green tea: choose organic as the tea plant readily absorbs fluoride from pesticides.



Varieties of tea. So if all traditional teas come from only one plant and there are only four basic types, why are there

more than 3000 varieties? Teas often take their names from the areas in which they are grown, and there are many growing areas producing regional variations. The tea gardens of Sri Lanka produce quite a different tea from Taiwan. Factors such as weather and altitude affect its flavor as well. Then, too, many teas (like Scotch whisky) are blended. Some of the popular teas include (in alphabetical order):

Assam, a strong black tea from northeast India, which is almost too strong to drink alone thus is often used in blends.

Ceylon, black tea grown in the cool gardens of Sri Lanka at elevations above 5000 feet, noted for its robust, pungent flavor.

Darjeeling, grown in the foothills of the Himalayas, is available for harvest only three to four weeks each year has a fine, delicate flavor enjoyable at any time of the day.

Earl Grey, a combination of China black teas with a distinctive citrus flavor and aroma derived from the addition of oil extracted from the rind of the bergamot orange grown in Calabria, Italy, is enjoyed worldwide. The Earl Grey blend, or "Earl Grey's Mixture," is assumed to be named after Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, British Prime Minister in the 1830s. He reputedly received a gift, probably a diplomatic perquisite, of tea flavored with bergamot oil. According to one legend, a grateful Chinese mandarin whose son was rescued from drowning by one of Lord Grey's men first presented the blend to the Earl in 1803. The tale appears to be made-up as Lord Grey never set foot in China and the use of bergamot oil to scent tea was then unknown in China. However, this tale is subsequently told (and slightly corrected) as on the Twinings website, as "having been presented by an envoy on his return from China." A more nearly correct rendition comes from the Grey family: the

tea was specially blended by a Chinese mandarin for Lord Grey, to suit the water at Howick Hall, the family seat in Northumberland, using bergamot in particular to offset the preponderance of lime in the local water. Lady Grey used it to entertain in London as a political hostess, and it proved so popular that she was asked if it could be sold to others, which is how Twinings came to market it as a brand. "Earl Grey" (as applied to tea) is not a registered trademark, and numerous tea companies produce their own versions of Earl Grey tea, using a wide variety of tea leaves and additives. "Lady Grey," on the other hand, is a trademark of Twinings.



English Breakfast, is a classic blend of Ceylon, Assam, and colorful teas from the mountains of Kenya. Rich in color and natural aroma, it can be enjoyed any time of day or night.

Formosa Oolong, often called "the champagne of teas," grows in Taiwan and is picked only once a year. It brews to an amber color and has a superb aroma and light taste.



Irish Breakfast, a delicious blend of black teas from Kenya and Rwanda as well as other fine

Campbell's Perfect Tea, a beautiful blend of black teas from Kenya and Rwanda as well as other fine

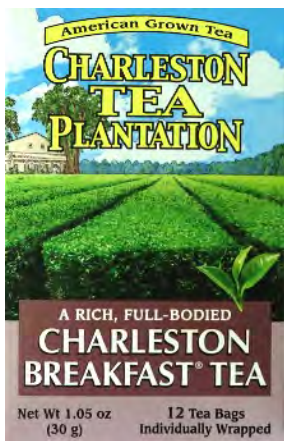


African teas noted for their golden yellow color and distinctly bold flavor, is wonderful with milk and sweetened to taste.

Keemun, said to be the best of China’s black teas, has a lusty orchid-like aroma and surprisingly delicate flavor that complements a variety of foods.

Lapsang Souchong, grown only in a region of China, has a smokey, exotic flavor and aroma and is an acquired taste.

American Tea: Over 100 years ago, tea planters brought their finest ancestral tea bushes from China and India to Wadmalaw Island near the historic old city of Charleston, SC. Now the direct descendants of these very plants have been lovingly restored to their former grandeur at the Charleston Tea Plantation, a lush subtropical tea farm.



The charms of tea. Now that modern research has shown that claims for the health benefits of tea-drinking are largely true, pour yourself a cup of tea — and drink to your health as we explore the charms of tea.

Tea is one of life’s simplest pleasures. Enjoyed in just about every country in the world, tea has always provided comfort, charm, romance, and pleasant taste. In China it is called “cha;” in Russia, “chai;” in France, “thé;” Italians and Spaniards call it “te;” while the USA and Great



“Cha” is the Chinese character for tea

Britain use “tea.” While every country may have its own spelling and pronunciation, tea is vastly popular the world over and is the second most consumed beverage, after water, on Earth.

The practice of drinking tea or chá has a long history in China. Shennong, whose name means “the Divine Farmer,” is honored with the discovery of tea. According to legend, one fall afternoon, Shennong decided to take a rest under a camellia tree and boiled some water to drink. Dried leaves from the tree above floated down into the pot of boiling water and infused with the water, creating a pot of tea, marking the first ever infusion of the tea leaf. Intrigued by the delightful fragrance, Shennong took a sip and found it refreshing. Since Shennong’s discovery, tea has been grown and enjoyed throughout the world. In the beginning, tea was used in ritual offerings.

The tradition of teatime has long been a cherished one, bringing tranquil setting to the mind, delicate refreshments to the palate, and warm conversation with good friends to the heart. This elegant ritual has inspired many authors to include it in their writings: from Dr. Samuel Johnson’s (1709-1784) uncomplimentary commentary, “. . . a hardened and shameless tea-drinker, who has, for twenty years, diluted his meals with only the infusion of this fascinating plant; whose kettle has scarcely time to cool; who with tea amuses the evening, with tea solaces the midnight, and, with tea, welcomes the morning;” to Daphne du Maurier’s poignant scene in *Rebecca*, to the eager anticipation of having a childhood friend over for tea in J. M. Montgomery’s *Anne of Green Gables*, and even in Oscar Wilde’s haunting *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, tea is infused in all walks of life.

In the Victorian Age, late afternoon was the time people visited each other having special days when one was officially “at home.” As a social event, the Victorian tea was generally limited to matters that were light-hearted in nature, and not the time for heated political discussions or airing family feuds. While gossip was undoubtedly inevitable, it was never harsh or mean spirited. In every way, the demeanor of the event was reflected in regal elegance – from the soft gowns of the ladies, to the delicate refreshments served on the best porcelain plates, served by footmen as musicians

enjoyed before a roaring fire on a cold wintry day, or over ice with the kids after they have come home from school. It may be enjoyed with friends, family members, or simply taken in a quiet solitude.

Nor does it have to be a cup of hot tea served with either lemon or milk. Iced tea seems to have originated at the St. Louis World’s Fair in 1904. The tradition is that a merchant of Indian tea had become dismayed when he could not sell his hot



played softly in the background.

This custom grew out of the Victorian eating habits of a hearty breakfast, a light lunch, and a late dinner. By 4:30 pm, a repast became a necessity of life and the British developed that necessity to perfection, promoted and sanctioned by Queen Victoria herself. In the more than sixty years of Queen Victoria’s reign, the afternoon tea had become a national necessity and a treasured custom best described by Charles Dickens as one “in which we were perfectly contented with ourselves and one another.”

Today, tea time no longer automatically means taking tea in the afternoon. It may mean a mid-morning pick-me-up, or an indulgent complement to breakfast in bed. It can be a hot cup

tea to crowds sweltering in the summer heat. So, in desperation, he poured his tea over ice. Thirsty Americans have been flocking to iced tea ever since, and drink more iced tea than any people in the world

Anytime may be tea time and it may be enjoyed anywhere: garden tea party, picnic, as a holiday setting, or even on the run with an insulated container in the car. There is no limit to the ways tea can be enjoyed – it’s all part of the simple pleasures of tea time today. It is as charming as Lewis Carroll’s “Mad Tea Party” in *Alice in Wonderland*:

“Take some more tea,” the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.

“I’ve had nothing yet,” Alice replied in an offended tone: “so I can’t take more.”

“You mean you can’t take less,” said the Hatter: “it’s very easy to take more than nothing.”

茶

Camellia Quiz

The following are some popular **miniature** camellias. Can you name them?
Answers on page 29.



#1



#2



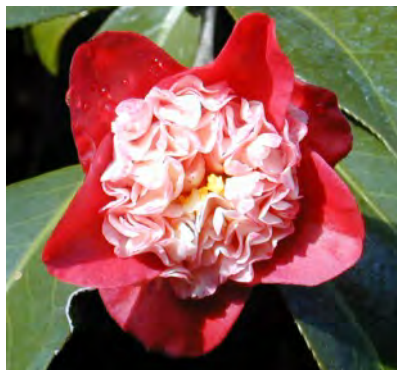
#3



#4



#5



#6



In the Autumn Garden

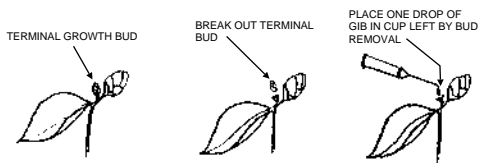
By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA

Have you had to water a lot this summer? While some areas got plenty of rain, others got very little and required watering. Autumn is usually our driest months, so a good soaking of the plants should be made each week without a good rain (more often for container plants). They only complain when there is NO water for extended periods. Don't over water by watering too often and not long enough per occasion.

Continue your disbudding of established japonicas to encourage larger blooms and healthier plants. All buds other than terminal buds should be broken off. Also, all multiple terminal buds should be reduced to one. You will be rewarded with larger flowers and less partially open or deformed blooms. (Don't try to disbud the sasanquas, since you want maximum show of blooms during their short season.) By mid-summer the flower buds are easily distinguished from the growth buds. They are rounder and on each side of the more pointed growth bud. Remember the rule of thumb – about 1/3 of the original buds produced on an established plant will actually open into flowers. So, by removing the 2/3 buds that won't open properly anyway, the plant rewards us with bigger and better blooms and we have less partially opened buds to pick up at the end of the season. Try to finish your disbudding by October so the plant can put all energy into remaining buds.

Continue gibbing to get earlier and larger blooms throughout the blooming season. Gibbing is best done from September through December. Gib every

week or so to spread the blooming over a period of time. Allow about 60 days from gibbing to blooming if you are timing your blooms for a show.



Add mulch to your plants when the leaves and pine straw start falling in the fall. Collect from your friends and neighbors to get enough leaves and pine straw for a layer several inches thick around your camellia plants. Chopping the leaves with a lawnmower will help prevent matting. Covering the leaves with pine straw will hold the leaves in place and look good too. Put the new mulch on top of the old mulch, which will break down into beneficial humus with some nitrogen and trace element nutrients. Established camellias, well mulched as described above for several years, and pruned each year, generally do not need additional fertilizer to thrive. They get enough from the decomposing mulch material.

If you plan to relocate an established plant this winter, do some root pruning during the late summer, so it will have time to grow new feeder roots before the move in December or January. Use a sharp spade to cut around the bush – approximately 1/2 of the circle around the plant. The objective is to cut some of the roots that go out a ways and supply nourishment to the plant. Cutting the roots will encourage new roots to form at the

end of the cut root.

A lot of camellia growers enjoy growing camellias from seed. You will rarely, if ever, get the same flower as the plant, which produced the seed and most of the blooms will be inferior in some way from the seed parent. But once in a while, a really nice, new camellia emerges which is desirable for various reasons. Watch for the seed pods to mature in late summer; they turn from green to lighter green then dull and finally they start cracking. Break them off at that point; in a couple days they'll complete cracking and the dark brown or black seeds come out. Plant immediately in a good soil mix and keep away from the squirrels. Many will germinate for you in fall and winter. Transplant in the early spring and treat like any new plant.

Do fall spraying now if your plants need it. As long as we have mild weather, you can apply an oil emulsion spray such as Dormant Oil or Ultrafine for control of scale. Another good product is Neem Oil. Neem oil is now an 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 to avoid damage to the leaves. Always use as directed by the manufacturer.

Fall is a good time to select and plant those new camellia plants you've been wanting to add to your garden. When selecting a plant at the nursery, there are several things to look for to help ensure that you will be pleased with your new plant. First, check that the leaves are turgid, a deep green (usually glossy) color that are not infected with scale or other pests. Next check the growth buds (or "eyes") for a green, healthy look for next season's new growth. Check the growth from last season – it should be several inches long. If the growth from last year

is only an inch or less, the plant may not be as vigorous as it should. If you can, check the roots; they should be numerous and a dull white color, not brown. A plant which meets all the above criteria should be a vigorous plant which will reward you with nice blooms for years to come.

Prepare your planting location as soon in the fall as you know the place. Work the soil by blending in good bark mulch and topsoil mixed with the native soil (equal parts). The planting location will be ready for the new plant you get in October or November (or later).

October usually brings blooms on the early blooming varieties and November features many more. Get some of the early blooming varieties such as Daikagura, High Hat or Arajishi to extend your blooming season.



C. japonica 'Arajishi' Japan 1891. Early bloomer. Usually blooms in September, but occasionally has a bloom in August.

One of the things that sustain us camellia growers through the hot humid summer is the memory of blooming season past and anticipation of the new season coming up. Somehow, it will make the wait worthwhile.



Editor's Notes

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



The Historic Camellia Garden at the Burden Museum and Gardens in Baton Rouge, LA is making progress. The Baton Rouge Camellia Society met August 19th with Jeff Kuehny, Director of Burden Gardens, to work out details for this winter's work.

The idea for the garden was proposed by Florence Crowder last year. Florence has been traveling for the last several years in the US and Europe seeking, collecting and propagating historical varieties. She now has more than 150 varieties ready to be planted.

Last year a site in the Barton Arboretum at Burden Center was selected and Florence managed to get a grant from the Lamar Trust to defray most of the expenses in preparing the area. A section of the arboretum has been cleared of

underbrush and a handicap friendly walking path has been laid out (on paper).

In November, Burden will put in the irrigation system, build the path and construct raised planting beds with a mixture of river silt mixed with composted organic matter.

The BRCS will be able to start planting camellias in late November or early December and hopefully finish planting all the ones that are ready before spring. The token 'Alba Plena' that was planted there last year is in a low spot and will be moved to a raised bed. The plan is to group them in 'rooms' by country of origin as much as possible.

We will continue to locate, propagate and plant more varieties as we find them.



Maphis

C. japonica 'Alba Plena' China to England 1792

WANTED

Scions or cuttings are needed for the following varieties which are missing from the collection of Vi Stone introductions at the LSU Burden Center in Baton Rouge. If you have any of these, or know anyone who does, please contact Gerald Phares at (225) 784-2831.

'Pirates Gold Moired' 'Lerlind'
'Stone Gates' 'Tada Meibi'
'Theo's Mini' 'Gary's Red'

Camellia Quiz Answers

1. Buttons and Bows, NR hyb. 1985, Nuccios, CA; **2. Lil Tiff** c. jap. 1978, Menard, Slidell, LA; **3. Something Beautiful**, c. jap. 1983, Atkins, Shalimar, FL; **4. Man Size**, c. jap. 1961, Wilson, Hammond, LA; **5. Sweet Jane**, NR hyb. 1992, Garnett, Australia; **6. Tinsie (Bokuhan)** c. jap. 1930 Japan.

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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The Gulf Coast Camellian is published quarterly
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C. japonica
'Campbellii'
Semi-double red.
Guichard 1894
France.



C. japonica
'Kon-Wabisuki,'
Blackish, dark red,
single, cup shaped
flower. Listed in
1937 McIlhenny
catalog.