

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Summer 2021

Volume 47 No. 3



photo Ken Campbell

C. japonica 'Yukiboutan'

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Membership Roster Edition

The Gulf Coast Camellian

Volume 47 No. 3 Summer 2021

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From the Cover



C. japonica 'Yukibotan'

White, large peony form, petals much undulated with small petaloids interspersed with stamens. Originated in the Kanto District, Japan c. 1859. Imported to the U.S. McIlhenny, Jungle Gardens, Avery Island, LA. and listed by him in 1937. An 'oldie but goodie' that was widely grown in the South and is still in many of the older gardens. I photographed this one in my garden recently. Kenn C.

President's Message

Joe Holmes

St. Francisville, Louisiana



I'm happy to report that the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, serving as the host club for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the GCCS, is actively working on our October meeting in St. Francisville, LA. The meeting dates are Saturday and Sunday, October 23 and 24, 2021. The venue is Hemingbough, an event center just outside town. Saturday evening's banquet, Sunday's lunch, and Sunday evening's dinner will all be at Hemingbough. The plant auction and silent auction will also be in the same location. Hemingbough's Guest House has eight rooms. The St. Francisville area offers a variety of lodging choices – two hotels, several bed and breakfasts, various cabins, “camps” on Lake Rosemound, and, for the adventurous, an antique Airstream beside a creek. More information will be in the registration packets which will be mailed in August. St. Francisville has several popular antique stores, historical museums and churches, and two state parks with antebellum homes and gardens. I'm certain that there will something to entertain you during your visit.

Now that many of us have gotten our vaccinations, some semblance of normalcy is returning. The BRCS had its first meeting in a year on Sunday, May 2, at the Pavilion at The Burden Museum and Gardens. We had a potluck picnic with 33 in attendance. President Mike Ruth talked about the numerous crises we've experienced during the last year including 5 hurricanes/tropical storms, an ice and snow event which caused damage from broken limbs and burst irrigation systems, and freak storms which uprooted one end

of our hoop house and tore apart an irrigation system. He also talked about the three highly successful plant sales we had this year even though we cancelled our February show.

Although our regular events were cancelled during the past year, our core group of 5 or 6 have gathered on Wednesday mornings at Burden and cared for the Stone Camellia Collection and our grafted plants. We're beginning to see our grafting successes as we begin removing the cups from the 400+ grafts we did in February.

In my garden I have been amazed at the amount of spring growth I see, particularly on my grafts from last year. I don't know if this exceptional growth is a



New growth on 'Sadaharu Oh'

response to the week of freezing temperatures with snow and ice that we experienced here this past February or the fertilizer I applied in late March or a combination of both or something else. In any case, I certainly welcome it.

Please continue to share news and photos of your club activities, articles about camellia gardens, people, plants, or anything you find interesting. Our Editor, Kenn Campbell, welcomes all the material you can provide.



Camellias in Exquisite English Gardens

by

Ruby G. Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA



In the beginning. While camellias are not native to the United Kingdom, the plant has been embraced by the British for close to three hundred years. It all seems to have begun with renowned horticulturist, Robert James Petre, 8th Baron Petre, and his gardener, Robert Gordon.

Born three months following his father's death, Lord Petre developed an interest in horticulture as a child, and by the time he was a teen, he was friends with some of the most eminent botanists of the day. At the age of 18, he had complete control of Thorndon Hall which had been held for him in trust since his father's death.

In order to grow exotic species from seed, Lord Petre developed huge "stoves" (hothouses) in which he could create beds of tanner's bark, a by-product of leather manufacture which generated a constant heat of about 77F needed to reach the high temperatures required for germination. It was in one of these stoves that camellias were first grown in England, at Thorndon Hall, Essex, in 1739.

During the next two years, Petre continued to increase the plantings in his gardens and develop state of the art glasshouses. Unfortunately, he died of smallpox at about the age of 30 years, and soon his gardens and greenhouses fell into disrepair.

This tragedy, however, did not halt the spread of camellias in the UK. After the death of Petre, his gardener, James Gordon, who was well respected in his own right, went on to start a successful nursery. It was Gordon who is responsible for introducing the first camellias for

sale in England from his nursery in Mile End.

From this point on, camellias became a "must have" plant for the well-to-do. Believing that camellias needed sheltered conservatories to protect them from cold and frosts, these plants were not for the hoi-polloi who could not afford to grow them. Thus camellias were collected by the wealthy and skilled horticulturists who placed the plants in exquisite gardens. The ensuing craze for orchids which began in the late 1800s, along with the wars of the early 20th century, have taken away many of these gardens, but a few have survived.

Chiswick House. One of the oldest and most impressive glasshouse camellia collections in the UK open to the public is Chiswick House. Originally built and designed in 1729 by Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington (1694-1753), in the west of London, the house and gardens occupy sixty-five acres. After the Earl's death in 1753, the estate passed by marriage to the Dukes of Devonshire.



Chiswick House and Gardens

It was William George Spencer Cavendish, the 6th Duke of Devonshire, who commissioned Samuel Ware in 1813 to design a large conservatory specifically

to house his camellia collection. Devonshire had a major interest in gardening and horticulture, and was elected President of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1838, a position he held for twenty years until his death in January 1858. He was instrumental in establishing the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew as a national historic garden.

Known as the “Bachelor Duke” because he never married, the 6th Duke had intended to marry his cousin, Lady Caroline Ponsonby, but she married the Hon. William Lamb, who, after her death, became Prime Minister. In 1812, Lady Caroline had an affair with Lord Byron, for whom she coined the phrase “mad, bad, and dangerous to know.” Cavendish was devastated. Did Cavendish turn to the construction of the conservatory to help mend his broken heart?

At 302 feet, the conservatory was the longest ever built and was the forerunner of several large glasshouses including the magnificent Crystal Palace in London. The collection was planted in 1828 by Cavendish and his gardener, William Lindsay, with plants from Alfred Chandler’s nursery in Vauxhall in central London.

In 1995, the eleventh Duke of Cavendish decided to renovate the building and to upgrade the care of the camellias which were affected by insects and diseases.

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C. jap. 'Middlemist's Red'

trees from the 6th Duke’s historic specimens still living. It is home to one of two surviving examples of the deep pink camellia japonica known as ‘Middlemist’s Red.’ This plant was originally brought to



'Middlemist's Red' plant at Chiswick House
Photo by Florence Crowdeer

Britain from China in 1804 by Londoner John Middlemist, a nurseryman from Shepherds Bush. It is believed to have been presented by one of his descendants to Chiswick sometime after 1823, as the 6th Duke added to his growing collection. The only other known plant of this variety grows in the gardens of Treaty House, Waitangi, New Zealand.

The collection includes many of the earliest varieties introduced to Britain. Using stem girth as an approximate guide to the age of each plant, it is believed that the ‘Variegata,’ ‘Imbricata,’ ‘Chandleri,’ ‘Alba Plena,’ ‘Pompone,’ ‘Aitonia,’ ‘Corallina,’ ‘Rubra Plena,’ and ‘Rubra’ trees all date back to the original 1828 collection.

The Chiswick House greenhouses in London have held a camellia festival during early spring annually since 2010. The tenth anniversary festival was to have been held from 12 March 2020 until 5

April 2020, but instead was ended on the 19th of March after only seven days. Virtual tours and lectures seem to be the plan for 2021.

Heligan. Billed as “one of the most mysterious estates in England,” the Heligan estate was the ancestral home of the Tremayne family in Cornwall. Purchased by Sampson Tremayne in 1659, the house has undergone many changes. The extensive gardens were developed in 1766 and continued to be maintained until 1914. Squire John Hearle Tremayne made the earliest camellia plantings, including varieties such as ‘Althaeiflora,’ ‘Anemoniflora,’ and ‘Fimbriata.’ Later plantings in the 1870s and 80s by Squire John Tremayne featured some of the continental varieties, ‘Lavinia Maggi,’ ‘Auguste

never returned. Unlike many other estates, the gardens and land at Heligan were never sold or developed. This allowed the plants, both wild and cultivated, to flourish unrestrained. The specimens of Heligan’s collection were given both time and the protection of surrounding overgrowth to mature into the magnificent specimens which can be seen today.



Spring at Heligan



C. jap. 'Lavinia Maggi'

Delfosse,’ and ‘Eugenie de Massena,’ while the most recent varieties, ‘Gloire de Nantes,’ ‘Fleur Dipater,’ and ‘Madame Martin Cachet,’ were planted by the last Squire of Heligan, Jack Tremayne.

At the end of the nineteenth century, Heligan’s thousand acres were at their zenith, but only a few years later bramble and ivy were already covering the building. The outbreak of WW1 was the start of the estate’s demise as its workers went off to fight in the trenches. Sadly, many

In 1990, the derelict gardens were discovered by Tim Smit and John Willis, a Tremayne descendant. They contacted the local county horticultural advisor who became involved in the largest garden restoration project in Europe. More than 70 veteran camellias and 350 ancient rhododendrons were found throughout Heligan. The earliest plantings date from around 1850. Within two years, the gardens were opened to the public while further restoration continued. Today Heligan’s 200 acres are a paradise for the explorer, wildlife, plant, and garden lovers.

In 2017, Heligan was asked to provide a gift for each of the mothers dining at Idle Rocks Restaurant in St. Mawes on Mothering Sunday. Having no connection to the American Mothers’ Day, Mothering Sunday, generally held on the 4th Sunday of Lent, was traditionally a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone off to work as domestic servants, were given a day off to visit their mothers and family. Remembering that Heligan used



to ship fresh camellias on a bed of straw via train from St Austell to Covent Garden in London, the garden committee decided that the perfect gift would be a single camellia japonica bloom from the historical collection. As all growers who take camellias to shows know, gathering perfect blooms for special occasions takes much longer than one would think. If the petals are perfect and unblemished, then often the leaves are damaged. Although the blooms look lovely on the tree, they don't always stand up to close inspection. Nevertheless, the committee members persevered, picked the delicate camellias, carefully placed them in beautiful gift boxes, and presented one to each of the mothers who were dining at the prestigious Idle Rocks that Mothering Sunday.

Cornwall, is the former home of the Earls of Mount Edgcumbe. Originally built in the 1500s, it was restored after World War II and is currently owned by the Cornwall Council and the Plymouth City Council. While the house and formal gardens require a visitation fee, the 865 acre country park is free to the public and includes the National Camellia Collection which was first started by David Trehane, nurseryman and author, in 1975. Looking for a large garden that could hold an extensive collection of camellia plants,



Mount Edgcumbe House, Cornwall

initially Trehane donated plants from his own collection, but over the next few years camellias were presented to Mount Edgcumbe by the National Trust, Windsor Park, and several private enthusiasts.

Until 1995 the National Camellia Collection consisted of 365 cultivars. Since then, a new gardening team has concentrated on the introduction of new varieties from all over the UK, Europe and America, and now the collection includes over a 1000 cultivars. Although some of the first blooms open in January, the best time to visit the park is mid-April. The camellias are grouped into sectors composed of English, American, Japanese, Chinese, Australian, and New Zealand varieties. Because of the distance between the sectors, much time and comfortable shoes are required!



Heligan Mud-Man

Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and Gardens. Mount Edgcumbe House, located on Rame Peninsula in southeast

Autumn flowering *Camellia sasanqua* varieties and *Camellia japonica* types and cultivars are very well represented, running the gamut from plain single flowers, through more formal semi-doubles and doubles, to the blowzier peony forms. Varieties like ‘Mariann,’ and ‘Laura Schafer’ may be found in the



C. jap. 'Laura Schafer'



C. jap. 'Mariann'

American section, while the English sector displays ‘Celebration,’ and ‘Finlandia Varigated.’ The Australian/New Zealand representatives include the ‘Fair Jury,’ and ‘Queen Bee.’

The *camellia x williamsii* crosses are often even larger and more prolific in flower. They easily shed old, spent flowers, and are thus better selections for English gardens. Needless to say this collection is bountiful. Varieties like ‘Majorie Waldegrave’ and ‘Rosemary Williams,’ are a joy to behold.

Most flamboyant of all are the *camellia reticulata* varieties such as ‘Valentine Day’ and ‘Royalty.’ With big flowers which can be eight inches across, oversized leaves and attractive small tree habits, they are not as hardy as *camellia japonica* or *camellia x williamsii*, but they do well in this warmer area of England. A section of the woodlands has been given over to these camellias and they are impressive in flower.

Caerhays Estate. An article about English gardens would not be complete without a mention of Caerhays and its owner, John Charles (or J.C., as he was always called) Williams (1861-1939). Only eighteen years old when he inherited Caerhays, J.C. became passionate



J. C. Williams of Caerhays

about gardening. He was quick to recognize the importance of the plant hunters’ work and contributed £400,000 (in today’s terms) of his own money towards Forrest’s 1911 and subsequent expeditions, as well as being involved in the

joint funding of many other trips. In return, Caerhays received a wealth of seed from newly discovered species of Chinese rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, azaleas, acers and evergreen oaks to mention but a few. A large number of these unique plants can be seen



Caerhays Estate, Cornwall

growing in maturity at Caerhays today.

J.C. Williams and his cousin and friend, P.D. Williams of Lanarth, became members of the Royal Horticultural Society in about 1892. J.C. had become attracted to the gardening ideas of William Robinson and was considering making a wild garden at Caerhays but, in 1897, he was diverted by a new interest, namely that of daffodil breeding. His friendship with the Rev. George Engleheart, who had started to show off his work as a

pioneer in daffodil hybridizing, resulted in J.C. purchasing a large quantity of these new varieties which formed the basis for his future hybridizations.



c. x-williamsii 'J. C. Williams'

The next stage was the arrival in Veitch's Nursery of the first new rhododendrons from China which had been collected by E.H. Wilson. Caerhays was chosen as the place where these new varieties would be tested. Many of the original Wilson species and plants from this time can be seen in the

garden.

Mr. Wilson continued to explore China, but left Veitch's Nurseries and went to work for the Arnold Arboretum near Boston, Massachusetts. At that time, the Arboretum was under the management of the greatest expert of the new Asiatic plants, Professor Charles Sprague Sargent. Wilson told Professor Sargent about Caerhays and about how the Chinese plants were being tested. Plans were made for Professor Sargent to visit Caerhays which he did. But his choice of

dates was very unfortunate. He arrived at Caerhays at the end of July 1914 and the first World War broke out on August 4th.

J. C. Williams was not completely mesmerized by rhododendrons. He wanted

C. x-williamsii
'Debbie's
Carmayion'
1971 New
Zealand



C. x-williamsii
'Marjorie
Waldegrave'
1973 Cornwall,
England



C. x-williamsii
'Inspiration'



C. x-williamsii
'Rosemary Sawle'
1961 Caerhay
Castle, Cornwall

different plants. In the 1920s, he took an interest in camellias and fuchsias. It was at this stage that the first cross between camellia japonica and camellia saluensis was made. The resultant hybrids took the name x williamsii and, during the next 75 years, literally thousands of different named x williamsii hybrids had been bred all around the world. The two old original plants still just survive today against the castle wall. It was the vigor resulting from this cross that turned the camellia from being a rich man's tender conservatory plant into the hardy, floriferous garden plant which has such appeal in the UK today.

J. C. started keeping a garden diary in 1897 and continued it right up to his death in 1939. The diary has been transcribed online today and while no pictures from this time exist, it is a real insight to the garden during his time. The diary, now with pictures and video, continues to be updated daily by his great-grandson, Charles Williams. See it at <https://thediary.caerhays.co.uk>.

An interesting biography which details the life and the contributions made by J.C. Williams to the development of daffodils, rhododendrons, camellias, and magnolias was presented as the presidential address to the Royal Institute of Cornwall in November 1988. Read it at <https://visit.caerhays.co.uk/the-estate/castle-and-family/jc-williams/an-enthusiast/>.

Caerhays Estate is expected to reopen 14 February 2021 with guided tours being offered beginning 15 March.



Something About Seedlings - Part 4

My Last Words

By John Grimm, Metairie, LA

Your seedlings that germinated should already be about 3 to 4 inches and Spring germinations should be popping up. In the next few months, you will probably be potting them up from your small cells or “communal” pot(s) into larger containers for the next stage of growth (remember to pinch off the tip of the tap root). Water deeply every few days depending on the weather conditions and fertilize lightly (the plants are really small – do not over fertilize). Unless you want to put under grow lights for 18 hours a day or so, plan to be patient. You might get lucky and see results in just a few years, or may wait for a decade or more.

While I have between 4,000 and 5,000 seedlings being watched for more special blooms, Pat Johnson has to hold the record for a non-commercial grower with reputedly 14,000 seedlings. This octogenarian awaits new beauties to register each year and has registered a large number for the past few years. Her new registrants will even include one named for our own Jim Campbell. Unless the recent rules adopted by the American Camellia Society are changed to allow more than 5 registrations by a single grower per year, Pat will have to outlive Methuselah (estimated to be 969 years) to see all her fine new seedlings named and registered.

At this point, I'd like to comment about a unique public garden in Greenville, Alabama, Beeland Park and its hundreds of seedlings. It cannot qualify for a Camellia Trail designation because that designation requires most of the camellias are properly identified by name. This park cannot qualify because it was created by requesting seedlings from Greenville's local growers; the hundred plus trees have never been named. It is a special place to add to your camellia adventures. Look for the ones that remind you of existing camellias; look for ones that don't.



C. n.r. hyb. 'Jim Campbell' med., seedling of n. r. hyb. 'Super Star' 2020 Pat B. Johnson



'Lisa Burton'



'Melanie Chauvaux'

Additional seedlings I assisted in registering over the years included three fine specimens from Gordon Rabalais ('Carlton Lacour', 'Carlton Lacour Variegated' and 'Red Shift'). Another, his X31, that was to be named was lost by both of us. Good seedlings should be reproduced as soon as practical to be sure they are not lost before they can be registered. Hopefully, Gordon adds more new varieties to the camellia world in the years to come.

A friend, Dr. Richard Christmas, had two seedlings his father had grown. While the original plants have had some difficulty coping with their age and the storms that hit Ocean Springs, I've grown several large plants and a few extras for him. The first, a lovely white camellia, I had hoped he'd name 'White Christmas'; however, if successfully registered, it will be named for his father, James Yancy Christmas. The second, a pink bordered white which I wanted to name 'Christmas Gift' should be named for his mother, Elva Downing Christmas. Naming new varieties for wives, and other family members or friends is the main appellation given registered seedlings. Famous (and infamous) people also are picked for camellias for example, General George Patton (and many other generals and military leaders), Richard Nixon, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Lurleen Wallace, Governor Richard W. Leche, our own Mayor Webb Hart, and a whole new series of First Ladies of Georgia, to name a very few. Such naming of camellias for famous people is now only permitted with their approval.

Speaking of the infamous, hopefully our Society will not succumb to the political correctness of the day and rename such varieties as Robert E. Lee, Rebel Yell, Civil War, and others. There is precedent for doing so however, the camellia 'Communist' was renamed 'Wall



'Carlton Lacour'



'Red Shift'



'Nolan Lewis'

Street Red.' Wow! That sure makes you think!

Surely, more new varieties will emerge from Camellia Heaven, Pat Johnson, the Strobach's, the prolific Jim Smelley and the many others in camelliadom fascinated by seedlings, as well as, the commercial growers like Nuccio's in California.

I will continue to help people apply for registration, hopefully, the American Camellia Society will relax their rules on uniqueness of varieties somewhat. After all, if the new regulations were followed yesteryear, submissions for varieties like 'Something Beautiful', 'Tammia' and 'Grace Albritton' might have resulted in only one approval despite proven genetic differences. They were genetically unique despite the fact that most can't identify their modest differences. Many people wanting to name their seedlings for family members are unlikely to ever show their creations. For them, naming and registering a camellia is like naming a star for their loved one. In the end, it's recognition, a celebration of ancestry, and a touch of vanity.

Enjoy your wild seedlings and maybe you will also learn to hybridize, cross pollinating special varieties to create something different – like a gigantic flower blooming in the summer, or a purple and gold bloom (or pick your school's colors), or the elusive blue camellia (that only exists as a book title). Have fun, you never know what mother nature has in store.



'Pat B. Johnson'



'Pat's Pink'



GRAFT CHIMERA OF C. japonica 'Something Beautiful' on *C. sasanqua*

by Dave Scheibert

(Previously published in the Gulf Coast Camellian, Vol. 24 No. 1 Winter 1999)

From "The Camellia, etc." edited by Feathers and Brown in 1978, we learn that Dr. William Ackerman (1) describes a chimera as a plant or animal tissue containing at least two different types while a mutation is a hereditary change in a chromosome not of sexual origin. Camellia mutations are not uncommon. Graft site chimeras have only been described three times up to 1978(1), the last being *C. japonica* 'Daisy Eagleson' grafted on *C. sasanqua* 'Maiden's Blush'. Chimera and mutations may occur spontaneously and be permanent, revert or die. Two camellia tissues of different chromosome counts may be brought together in grafting and if both persist and grow in the callus, a chimera may result having two or more different and adjacent tissues.

The purpose of this article is to increase our awareness of graft chimera and our power of observation so that we can discover more camellia flowers and plants and avoid pruning graft junction branches until they have produced flowers. It would have been a great loss if *C. japonica* 'Helen Bower' had been missed when *C. japonica* 'Dr. J. v. Knapp' was grafted on *C. japonica* 'Mathotiana'. How many of you have cut off low branches at a camellia graft site before they bloomed? Two months ago a graft site branch on a typical *C. japonica* 'Whitman's Yellow' was noted to bloom a pink medium semi-double with no identity of root stock. The leaves are also larger and more serrated. The story of the present probable chimera follows.

Eight years ago Hulyn Smith gave me a two year graft of *C. japonica* 'Something Beautiful' from Ed Adkins. The

plant's blooms were typical of this variety. Five years ago a small branch was noted at the graft site. (photo #2) This branch was spared since I'm a poor pruner and three years ago bloomed one semidouble 4 inch bright red (photo #1) with yellow stamens. The plant and I traveled to Valdosta, Georgia, to confirm the branch coming from the graft site and the flower. Ed Atkins was unaware of the identity of the stock. Two years ago a *C. sasanqua* sprout (photo #2) came up from the root and bloomed a small white *sasanqua* bloom with fragrance. So, here were two types of camellia wood with 3 kinds of flowers. Only then did my poor power of observation note that the leaves on the branch from the graft site were over 50% larger (photo #4) and more serrated than on the grafted *C. japonica* 'Something Beautiful'. Three bright red blooms were produced on the "chimera" each of the last two years. In January, 1995, it won the best mutant award at the Mobile, AL Camellia Show.

The task of proving the chimera is not yet completed. Chromosome counts of flowers (pollen), leaves and meristem of stock, graft and probable chimera are necessary for proof of a chimera, (two or more unlike tissues adjacent to each other). In addition, pruning of the exuberant root sprout and graft is necessary to force more growth of the probable chimera at the graft site. Grafting and rooting of the chimera is also needed.

There is an interesting genetic story of the color variations of certain camellia families, such as *C. japonica* 'Tomorrow', 'Elegans', 'Lady Vansittart', 'Betty Sheffield', etc. (2) & (3). Many other ornamental flowers are now known to sport.

In recent years this varying flower color change has been proven to be due to color gene transposition or "jumping genes". For years, I've referred to such flowers as genetically unstable and now it is proven. (Genetic changes are now known to cause many bizarre and familial diseases of humans including cancer.)

Thank you for your attention to the subject of camellia chimera and mutations. Keep your power of observation keen to discover these changes which can add more varieties of camellia beauty.

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Photo No. 1. 4-1/2 inch red bloom (RHS 46) gibbed Camellia graft chimera. Photo by Dave Scheibert



Photo No. 2. Close-up of graft junction; root sprout of *C. sasanqua* stock on left, graft junction and 'Something Beautiful' stock in middle, and chimera branch sloping up to the right (note rougher bark).



Photo No. 3. View of container plant with parts as in Photo No. 2.



Photo No. 4. Leaves of *C. sasanqua* stock on left. Leaf of *C. japonica* "Something Beautiful" in middle. Leaf of chimera on right comparing leaf size and serration. Photos by Dave Scheibert

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Annual Meeting

October 23 and 24, 2021

At Hemingbough,
St. Francisville, Louisiana



Information will be mailed when
finalized

AROUND THE



Baton Rouge Camellia Society Work Day

*2021 grafts beginning to grow.
The six grafts in the foreground
are the red sport of 'Melissa Anne'*

*Charlie Johnson repairs
storm damaged shade
cloth at hoop house while
new Baton Rouge County
Agent, Russell Harris,
looks on.*





New sign at PCC shade house.



Joshua Edwards pruning.



John Dav pruning with Lee Vanderpool cleaning up.



Judy Woerner with Carolyn Pulford

***Pensacola
Camellia Club
Holds Pruning
Day at University
of West Florida***



Debbie Brown cleaning up.

GULF COAST



The Trash



Mike Ruth and Lynn Vicknair weed and check next season's stock of grafts and cuttings.



*C. jap. 'Gloria Ann'
Reg. 2021 by Alan
McMillan, Pensacola,
FL*

GCCS ROSTER 2021

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Camellia japonica 'Willard Scott'

By Torri Buckles, his grand-daughter



Jessie Willard Scott was born in 1914 to Ben and Lena Scott in Woodville, Mississippi, one of seven children. Willard attended school until grade 5, when he and his older brothers helped their parents tend to the farm. His mother, Lena, died when he was 14 years old.

Two years later Willard left home to work on a local ranch as a cowboy. He was a skilled horseback rider and would rope, wrestle, and secure cattle. Timber was also a thriving industry in Woodville that supported many laborers in the community. So, at the age of 22, Willard began working at Ransom Lumber Company where he earned an annual salary of \$400, the equivalent of \$7,473 in today's dollars.

He was hardworking, dependable and handsome. He was tall, slender, had teakwood colored skin and eyes that radiated both brown and grey hues. In 1938, he married Babers Walker by whom he had nine children. A skilled craftsman, Willard built his family's first home in Woodville. He later planted greens, corn, and butter beans for his family and friends to enjoy.

At times, work at the lumber mill was stagnant and he would have to travel to other towns to work. He eventually found a stable job in Zachary, Louisiana, then later moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

While living in Baton Rouge, Willard

worked as a general laborer, gardener and landscaper. He was very meticulous about the quality of his work and took pride in everything that he did. Soon he became the gardener of choice for homeowners in Baton Rouge, including

the camellia garden of Henry and Violet Stone. Mrs. Stone loved camellias, "the rose of winter in Southern gardens." She loved the beauty, versatility, of the flowers. She developed new varieties which she named in honor of her children, husband, or

people who were dear to her.

Mrs. Stone named one such camellia after Willard. Camellia japonica 'Willard Scott' is described as a light pink, fading to pink at the tips. A breathtaking flower that once well-established would need little additional care.

Today, the Willard Scott Camellia is beloved by garden enthusiasts across the United States. The Stone Camellia Collection, including 'Willard Scott' has been perpetuated by the Baton Rouge Camellia

Society at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens in Baton Rouge for the general public to enjoy.

Willard died in 1991 leaving an indelible memory in the heart and mind of everyone that knew him.



C. japonica 'Willard Scott'



*Willard Scott
(1914-1991)*



In the Summer Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA



Time for Rooting Cuttings; June and July is a good time to take camellia cuttings to propagate more plants - either japonicas or sasanquas. Some growers continue into September - the roots take longer to develop later in the season.

Select a 4" to 6" cutting of this year's new growth which has matured. Remove lower leaves, leaving from 2-4 leaves at the terminal. Cut the base of the cutting at a slant to increase surface area to root, dip in rooting hormone, if desired, and insert the base in rooting medium about 2" to 3" deep. Use a pencil or stick to form a hole to receive the cutting to avoid losing the hormone when inserting in the medium.

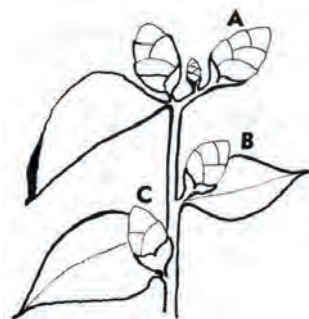
The rooting medium can be sand, perlite, vermiculite or any combination of these. Water the cuttings well, cover with plastic to retain moisture, and put pot in shade. Milk jugs with the bottom cut out work well for a small number of cuttings. For more cuttings and larger pots, plastic bags can be used. Put the pot in the bag and tie the open end with a twist-tie. The 13 gallon "tall kitchen bags" by Glad are white, fit all sizes of pots and seemed to work well for us last year.

Check the bags about once a month to ensure sufficient moisture remains. If you use the milk jugs with space between it and the side of the pot, water regularly to keep the medium moist. The covering pot or bag should always have moisture condensed on the inside. The cuttings will callous in about a month and start roots after another month.

They can usually be potted in a 4" pot by November if they were started in July and will have filled the 4" pot with roots

by spring. When the 4" pot is full of roots, they can be moved to 1 gallon pots. It's risky to put them in the gallon pots too soon - some will not survive. The mix used in the 4" pots must be very porous to allow excellent drainage. Once the cuttings develop roots into the mix, regular watering must be done to avoid drying out. Try a few (or a lot - we'll use your extras at the Burden Nursery for our program.) You'll enjoy watching the new little plants as they grow from that simple cutting you started in July.

Pruning and Disbudding: Start disbudding as soon as the flower buds are easily discernable from the growth buds. Carefully pinch off all but one flower bud on each stem to help get better and larger blooms. While disbudding, bring along your clippers and trim off any weak or dead



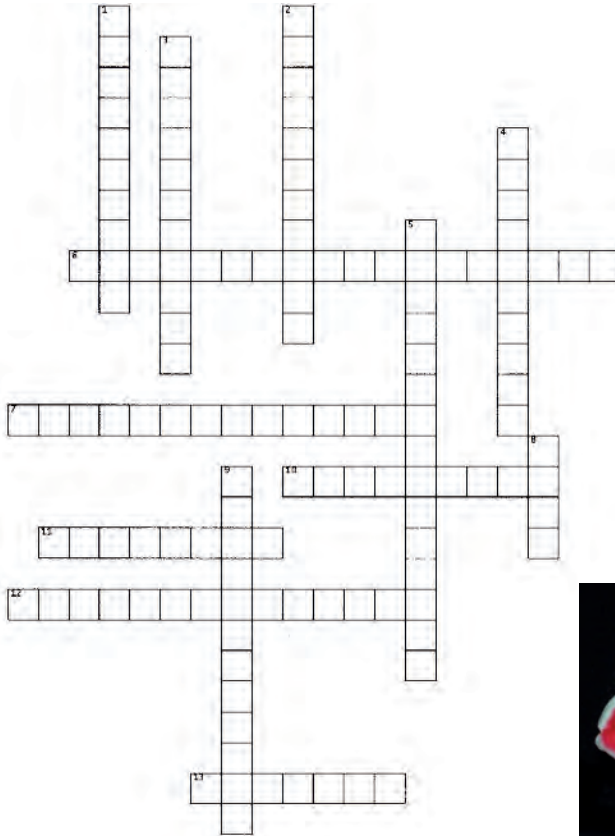
Remove buds A, B and C to leave only terminal bud.

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.



Camellia Crossword

All clues are from the Spring 2021 issue of the *Camellian*.



C. japonica 'Tama-no-ura'

ACROSS

6. best outside bloom at Pensacola 2020 show
7. material from which reusable graft covers may be made
10. camellia club having a show during pandemic
11. first camellia plants generally sold at a show are those which are _
12. location of impromptu camellia show for seniors
13. greatest exposure to this infection occurs during spring

DOWN

1. best protected bloom at Pensacola 2020 show
2. Pensacola show prizes donated to Marines for their gift program
3. where Tama-no-ura was discovered in 1947
4. to be eligible for placement in a show, the cultivar must be
5. Bobby Green seedling named/registered by the Grimms
8. camellias bordered in white
9. new cultivar introduced at Pensacola 2020 by Pat Johnson

Camellia Crossword Answers

Down

1. Miss Tulare
2. ToysForTots
3. FukuIsland
4. Registered
5. SawadasDream
8. Tama
9. JennieLewis

Across

6. DrCITforParksVar
7. PoliticalSigns
10. Pensacola
11. Blooming
9. Confederate Rose
11. Alba Plena
12. StFrancisville
13. Dieback

Editor's Notes

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



Accidental Experiment: In February 2020 Kay Clark told me she wanted 'Winifred Womack' and 'Magnoliaeflora,' so I volunteered to graft them for her. On 1 March 2020 (1st quarter moon), I harvested the scions and prepared to graft them. I decided to graft two of each to have a better chance of getting at least 1 take. Since it was late in the grafting season, I decided to graft one terminal bud and one "blind eye" scion of each. A "blind eye" being the growth buds or dormant eyes below the terminal buds.

As luck would have it, they all "took" and started to grow. The terminal bud grafts made slow bushy growth, but the "blind eye" grafts sent a strong stem straight up. By 21 June 2020, the "blind



Grafts l. to r. 'Winifred Womack,' terminal bud; 'Magnoliaeflora,' terminal bud; 'Winifred Womack,' blind eye; 'Magnoliaeflora,' blind eye. photo 6-3-20

eye 'Magnoliaeflora' had reached 22" tall and the 'Winifred Womack' 19". The terminal bud grafts were 9" and 12" tall. In addition, the "blind eye" graft of the 'Magnoliaeflora' had a bloom bud (which should have been removed but I would wait for Kay to do that). She would not remove it either and as of March 2021 it had not still opened but fell off before blooming.

I had not set out to do an experiment, but it just turned out that way.. It clearly shows the advantage of using a "blind eye" scions in lieu of terminal bud scions. It reminded me of something that Forrest Latta told me several years ago. He said he did all his grafting in March and used nothing but "blind eyes." Now I can see why.

Red Sport of Melissa Anne: The photo on the back cover is a sport of 'Melissa Anne' that first bloomed in January of 2021.



C. japonica 'Melissa Anne'



Red Sport of 'Melissa Anne'

The blooms were on a very vigorous shoot that originated from the graft union of the sasanqua understock. All the blooms on this shoot were the same. It may possibly be a 'graft chimera', but I am not smart enough to know how to tell or if it really matters. So I will just go with 'sport' for now.

C. japonica 'Melissa Anne' with red sport on vigorous shoot on left. The shoot originated from graft union and is a couple of feet taller than original plant. A number of grafts were made for the BRCS and are at the LSU Burden Center for evaluation.



Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join



C. japonica 'Cile Watford' 2009, by Walter Homeyer, Macon, GA



C. japonica 'Alice Jernigan' 2019, Ed Jernigan, Greenville, AL



C. japonica 'Dr. John Bell' 1950, G. H. Wilkinson, Pensacola, FL



C. sasanqua 'Midnight Ruby' 1994, Jerry Conrad, Plymouth, FL

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 Ann Ruth, 726 High Plains Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810*

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Photo: Kenn Campbell

Red Sport of C. japonica 'Melissa Anne' first bloomed 2021