

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Summer 2018

Volume 44 No. 3



C. Sasanqua 'Miss Ed'

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society
Membership Roster Edition

The Gulf Coast Camellian

Volume 44 No. 3 Summer 2018

Contents

From the Cover.....	page 2
President’s Message	page 3
Camellia Jelly.....	page 4
Fit for a Queen.....	page 5
The Dickster and Other Things	page 10
New GCCS Website.....	page 11
A Search for Lost Camellias.....	page 12
Hiller Park Camellia Garden.....	page 13
Around the Gulf Coast.....	page 15
Membership Roster.....	Page 18
In the Summer Garden	page 26
Camellia Quiz.....	page 27
Editor’s Notes.....	page 28
Camellia Websites.....	page 29
About the Gulf Coast Camellia Society.....	page 30
GCCS Officers.....	page 31
Back Cover - c. hybrid ‘Donation’ at Inverary Castle, Scotland....	page 32



Camellia sasanqua ‘Miss Ed’

A chance seedling originated by Mrs. T. K. McKnight, Baton Rouge, LA. First flowered in 1954. Flower 2-2 1/2” across x 1” deep. Light pink with deeper pink and lavender hints. There are 30-36 wavy notched petals and 6-10 small petals and 6-18 short stamens showing when flower is fully open. A.C.S. Reg. No. 314, 1958. *Photo by Jim Campbell.*

President's Message

Caroline Dickson
Poplarville, Mississippi



Communication is an important function in sustaining an organization. GCCS communicates by snail mail. I am personally a fan of print material and snail mail. I remember when email had a low number of character limits imposed by the sender and receiver's provider. Then came long attachments carrying whatever virus the sender may have had. Providers split on the solution by either allowing the attachment to show in a protected view or be the responsibility of the recipient as a download. I do not open attachments on my devices that require a download. I wait until I can use a device that allows protected view which means I will pay attention to the content. I cut and paste important information into the body of an email to be certain it can easily be read, not deleted for fear of virus.

Communication is a voluntary process between the sender and receiver. There is generally a new person in GCCS that will benefit from the historic articles restated in the Camellian. I found myself rediscovering information about cold tolerance of various Camellia species just before the severe winter in 2017. Mentioning cold tolerance in the deep

south can be met with giggles until we have a polar vortex happen with the Gulf of Mexico frozen in the shallows. Single digit temperatures in Poplarville have resulted in the death of NRH Raspberry Flambe with definite bark splitting. The twenty year old various sasanqua root stocks for my plants are probably showing stress from nine degree temperatures in early December 2017 with new cracks in their bark. I made the effort to identify which bloom were impacted by the cold like bull nose for 'Black Magic,' burned edges for opened 'Elaine's Betty,' and failure to open for 'Mathotiana.' 'Royal Velvet' reset bloom time for a delay of four weeks.



'Fashionata' continued to bloom before and long after the low temperatures. (Photo Jim Dwyer)

'Fashionata' continued to bloom before and long after the low temperatures. Tomorrow had very few blooms. 'Bernice Boddy' bloomed profusely within days of the low temperatures. 'Willard Scott' got die back and has just suffered chain saw pruning. Otherwise it was a joy to have. Ace of Hearts in full bloom on 'Valentine's Day.' The latest blooms were 'Brenda Ann Har' which is listed as early in the nomenclature book and 'Holly Bright.'

The leaves on my camellias looked

the worse in years after two snow events and single digit temperatures. March pruning has been a big job for me since the landscaper installed the camellias only six feet apart without regard to growth rate. I have removed some camellias just to give others space to grow more naturally. Recently I noticed the bare root tip of root stock removed three years ago had sprouted which is a whole other problem. Lack of mulch on that sprout may have allowed it to break dormancy. On my planting map, I write "removed" if roots sprout in the future.

My property was heavily wooded 20 years ago. A bulldozer cleared for house construction while leaving some mature trees. Katrina blew over red oaks, hickory, and pines. Stumps have started to rot out leaving deep holes a few inches under the surface. This combined with a house constructed next door which increased

water runoff has created sinking of areas in the yard that hold wetness that camellias have not tolerated. 'Gulfport Purple,' 'Fimbriata,' and 'R. L. Wheeler' have managed to survive where 'La Pepermint,' 'Walter Bellingrath,' and 'Laura Walker' are showing stress with loss of many

leaves. A couple of holes only have a six-inch opening at the surface, but have already been filled with a cubic yard of sand.

Please notify
 R e b e c c a
 Christian, Chair
 for 2018
 nominations, of
 candidates for
 officers and State
 V. P. By July 1,

2018. The members deserve to know nominations in advance of the October 15, 2018 meeting in Pensacola. The list of nominees will be included in the general membership meeting notice.

Have a great summer,



'Bernice Boddy' bloomed profusely within days of the low temperatures.

Camellia Jellysubmitted by Ann Ruth

Here is a recipe that Eva Hoover gave to me. Said it was a recipe found in an old cookbook dated 1960.

CAMELLIA JELLY

- 3 lb. camellia petals (yield 4 cups juice)
- 5-1/2 cups sugar
- 1 box Sure Jell

Crush petals and add 4 cups water. Bring to boil, then simmer 10 minutes.

Squeeze and strain.

Add sugar and Sure Jell.

Bring to a full boil while stirring.

Skim off foam with metal spoon.

Pour into sterilized jars.



FIT FOR A QUEEN

By Ruby G. Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA



One of England's most beloved members of the royal family was Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon was born on August 4, 1900; her father was Claude Bowes-Lyon, known as Lord Glamis and later the 14th Earl of Strathmore, and her mother was Cecilia Cavendish-Bentinck. There has been some confusion as to her actual birthplace but

family's homes, Glamis Castle in Scotland and St Paul's Walden Bury in Hertfordshire, boast extensive historic gardens. It was at Glamis that her mother revealed her own skills, notably in the creation of the Italian garden. The Queen Mother once said: "My mother and grandmother were great gardeners."

The Queen Mother loved all flowers, and although her favorites were roses, she



Queen Elizabeth (1900-2002)



Queen Elizabeth as a young girl

officially her birth is registered in Hertfordshire near the Strathmore's country house in St. Paul's Walden Bury. Her family also had a house in London but their ancestral home was Glamis Castle in Scotland and this was where Elizabeth spent most of her childhood.

Gardens and gardening were among the Queen Mother's foremost sources of pleasure. Her enjoyment can be traced to her childhood, when she was brought up in the surroundings of two outstanding gardens by her mother, the Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne, who was widely acknowledged as an expert. Her

admired camellias and planted camellias in all of her many gardens. It was not until her 1923 marriage to her beloved "Bertie," the Duke of York, Albert Fredrick Arthur George (1895-1952), second son of King George V of Great Britain, and later to become George VI, that she, as the Duchess of York, had the opportunity to indulge her love of gardens.

In 1931, she and her husband took on the Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park where they were to create a delightful garden that provided them with enjoyment for nearly twenty years. Much of the Royal Lodge Garden is informal woodland

where, among the ancient oaks, the Duke of York was able to pursue his interest in rhododendrons. To one side of the house, the Duchess made a rose garden filled with old-fashioned varieties. They were also responsible for planting large areas of magnolias and camellias containing specimens from Caerhays Castle in Cornwall.

In return for funding plant hunters' expeditions, J. C. Williams of Caerhays (1862-1939) received a wealth of seed from newly discovered species of Chinese rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, azaleas, acers, and evergreen oaks. The arrival of this plant material opened up opportunities for J. C. and his successors, Charles and Julian Williams, to engage in an extensive program of hybridization work which is still ongoing today. The origin of the truly hardy, free flowering and easy to grow *x williamsii* strain of camellias dates from J. C.'s original cross between *Camellia saluenensis* and *Camellia japonica* in 1923. *Williamsii* hybrid camellias now number many thousands of varieties and are still hybridized and grown throughout the world. The unique microclimate with its prevailing westerly gales, sea mists, humidity, and acidic soil in Caerhays, Cornwall, England provides ideal growing conditions for acid loving plants.

While the various sources consulted by this writer did not specify the varieties grown in their gardens, it seems safe to assume that such varieties as *Camellia* "Monica Dance," "George Blanford," "Burncoose," and "Donation Dark Form" developed at Caerhays would be amongst those found at the Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park and the other gardens established by the Queen Mother. While living at Royal Lodge, digital artist T. M. Glass was invited to photograph the flowers in the garden. A staff member



J. C. Williams of Caerhays (1862-1939)



C. saluenensis



C. x williamsii 'J. C. Williams' 1940 England,
C. saluenensis x *c. japonica*



C. x williamsii 'George Blandford' 1962 by Julian Williams Cornwall, England.



C. x williamsii 'Monica Dance' 1984 England.



C. x williamsii 'Burncoose' 1984 by Caerhay's Castle, Cornwall, England

cut the flowers and placed them in vases for him. After World War II, the King and Queen made notable improvements to the gardens of a number of royal residences. At Buckingham Palace, they organized the clearance of dense Victorian shrubberies and replaced them with more interesting ornamental trees and shrubs. At Sandringham, they were responsible for planting large areas with rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias.

During the long years of her widowhood, the Queen Mother witnessed her creation of two gardens in Scotland, one at Birkhall, a house on the Royal Family's estate at Balmoral, and another at the Castle of Mey in Caithness. Of all of her gardens, the one at the Castle of Mey, an outpost on Scotland's far northern shore, was more her own creation than any of the others. Considering retirement, she had bought the near derelict castle which had been built by George, the 4th Earl of Caithness, for his second son, William Sinclair, who was murdered by his brother John in 1573. She restored it, then turned her attention to the gardens which she transformed into a delightful place designed to be at its peak for her visits in August.

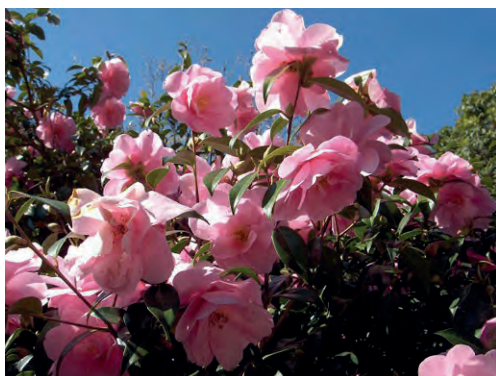
Between 1978 and 2002, the Queen Mother was Lord Warden and a garden was created at Walmer Castle in honor of her 95th birthday. She declared, "I have been given many presents before, but never a garden." However, she and other royals have often been given flowers and plants, many named in their honor. First among these is the popular and said to be indestructible "The Queen Elizabeth" rose developed in 1953 for the coronation of her daughter, the young Queen Elizabeth's coronation. In 1963, British rose breeder Peter Beales offered the "Scarlet Queen Elizabeth" rose suitable for brightening a dull hedge with a burst of regal red. But

it is not just roses that have come to royal attention. The spring flowering Clematis montana “Elizabeth” was raised by the Jackmans in 1958. The classic medium-sized pink Camellia japonica “Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II” was named in the United States in 1953. “No laws against the naming of plants for people exist,” states James Armitage at the Royal Horticultural Society, “but it is advised that should you wish to name a flower after a member of the Royal family, you seek permission first.” Certainly the plants must be of high quality, truly “fit for a Queen.”

After her daughter’s coronation as Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953, she took on the name “Queen Mother” or “Queen Mum” as lovingly called by her former subjects, so as not to be confused with the new queen. Following her service as queen, the Queen Mother said, “My only wish is that I may be allowed to continue the work that [George VI and I] sought to do together.”

Over the next decades, the Queen Mother became the royal family’s matriarch, but was always careful not to overshadow her daughter's reign as queen. She continued to travel and make public appearances in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth, and she didn’t allow personal illness to slow her down: She dealt with an appendectomy, colon cancer and an operation to remove a fishbone caught in her throat, all while serving as matriarch. In addition to her public duties, she enjoyed growing camellias in her gardens, fishing and horse racing, owning several prize-winning steeplechase horses.

On March 30, 2002, the Queen Mother died in her sleep at her home, the Royal Lodge at Windsor Great Park, with her surviving daughter, Queen Elizabeth



C. williamsii 'Donation' 1941
Col. R. S. Clarke, Sussex, England



A silver punch bowl with camellias from the Royal Lodge in Windsor Park were photographed by T. M. Glass.



C. jap. 'Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II'
U. S. 1955, Longview Nsy., Critchton, AL

II, at her side. She was 101 years old and at the time of her death, held the record of being the longest living member of Britain's royal family.

Her coffin was draped with her personal standard (flag) with a spray of white camellias grown in her personal garden on top. She was laid to rest in the St. George's Chapel alongside her husband in a private committal, following a grandiose funeral service at Westminster Abbey. Marking the grave is a black marble ledger inscribed with her name and that of her husband who died in 1952. The ashes of her younger daughter, Princess Margaret, were placed in the tomb beside her. Less than twenty-four hours after the interment, the line to file past the royal couple's grave site was averaging five hundred people an hour.

Four wreaths from senior members of the royal family were laid next to an altar near the tomb. One, from the Queen Mother's great-grandsons Princes William and Harry, was of white roses. A card next to it bore the message: "Dear Gran Gran, with much love and affection

forever. Wills and Harry." Princess Margaret's children, Lady Sarah Chatto and Viscount Linley, left wreaths of pink and red carnations. "Darling Granny, with all our fondest love," said the message. Lord Linley had also remembered his mother. "Darling Mummy," read the card.

Almost hidden from the public gaze was a wreath of flowers picked from Prince Charles' garden at his Highgrove estate. And behind the altar in a vase was a selection of the Queen Mother's favorite flowers, including pink orchids and white camellias, which had been picked from her garden at the nearby Royal Lodge.

The Queen Mother was for many years an active patron of the horticultural world, notably as a patron of the Royal Horticultural Society, of the National Gardens Scheme, of Scotland's Gardens Scheme, and as president of the National Trust. But it is in the gardens around her different homes that the Queen Mother has left her most distinctive work and made a major contribution to the development of Britain's royal gardens.



The Queen Mother's coffin, surmounted by her crown, adorned with camellias from her own gardens and draped with her personal standard, travels down to Westminster Abbey.

The Dickster and Other Things

By Bette Hooton, Pensacola, FL



A busy, but quirky season: the weather, cancelled shows, small shows, large shows, international shows, etc, etc, etc. The Dickster (that's what his kids call him!) has been busy also, planting, grafting, gathering and mailing scions, and traveling west on the Interstate to visit with Jim Smelley every two weeks. I went with him one time: I did not want him to go alone, and I thought I could parlay the trip into being taken out for lunch. Which I did. But what I did not bargain for is that Jim would be unavailable, his house would be locked, and I would have to resort to my Girl Scout skills of balancing myself in the woods to answer the 'call of nature'.

Vickie Baugh had warned me, but I paid no heed. At 75 years old, I never imagined that—well, enough about that. Was the lunch worth it? I wonder...

On to 'Other Things'—**GCCS will have its October Conference in beautiful downtown Pensacola** Monday and Tuesday, October 15 and 16, at the Sole' Inn and Suites on Palafox St. Rooms are \$89; and if you'd like to come for the weekend, Saturday and Sunday are \$99 along with a Continental breakfast and Happy Hour from 5-7. A bargain! Monday night along with the plant auction (Dick and Al Baugh) will be a seafood and veggie lasagna at Palafox House right across the street. There will also be a Hospitality Room at the hotel. Tuesday begins with a "Bloody Breakfast" at Polonza Bistro, which is a half block away! And Tuesday night's soiree will begin with cocktails at the beautiful bar in VPaul's Italian Ristorante (Paul Bruno's place of business) and then



dinner and program. This is really a bare-bones description to get you all motivated to attend.

The Silent Auction with Lisa Miller, Louise Seitz, and Lauren Mate et al will be lots of fun—last year it was an excellent moneymaker for GCCS. Education sessions will be available, and a Judges' school is in the works. Ah, so many art galleries, museums, such great seafood, and the Blue Angels might even be practicing. October is a lovely month in northwest Florida. Mike Ruth will get those packets ready for you come early summer. Such fun.

A large committee will gather at my house in April to plan this event thoroughly. The Pensacola Club is excited and honored to invite you all to "the western gate to the Sunshine State, where thousands live the way millions wish they could, where the warmth of our community comes from not only God's good sunshine, but from the hearts of the people who live here."



Nationally recognized author, PBS correspondent and gardening expert, Brie Arthur, will be our speaker for the Tuesday night, October 16, GCCS Conference banquet at VPaul's Italian Ristorante in Pensacola. She has been called a 'revolutionary' for her leadership in the suburban Foodscape movement and her work with public schools across the US. She speaks internationally and is a correspondent for PBS's "Growing a Greener World."



PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE NEW GULF COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY WEBSITE



The Gulf Coast Camellia Society has launched a new website. Unfortunately, Google is likely to direct you to the old website which is no longer active. Typing gulfcoastcamelliasociety.org into your browser should get you to the new website. Some sample links are posted on the website. I need members help to get information for adding additional links. I am asking local clubs to send information on contact people, meeting times and locations, show schedules, and any links to club websites and Facebook pages. Information about area gardens with contact information and links to websites would also be appreciated. Also send information about local nurseries carry nice camellias. Include addresses. Phone numbers and links to websites. Feedback and suggestions would be appreciated. Send information to Jim Dwyer jdwyer@gulftel.com



Jim Dwyer, Webmaster

A Search for Lost Camellias

By Brenda Litchfield, Mobile, AL



As a tour for our ACS 2019 Convention we will go to the Malbis Nursery, Daphne, AL. It used to be a big, productive operation back in the day and still has many camellias on site and a very interesting history. They said they would waive their meeting fee for us if we can help them find some of their lost introductions from 1936-1960. Here is a list. Do you have any? Do you know where any are?

Let the hunt begin! Please let me know if you can locate any of these.

Brenda C. Litchfield
251-622-1930
bcl6163@gmail.com

It would be wonderful to add to this historic nursery!!! Let's see how many we can find.

Malbis Nursery 1936-1960

(23 introductions)

‘**Antigoni**’ 1948. Red. Large semi-double. V.B. M.

‘**Brilliant Star**’ 1948. Red. Large semi-double. V.C. M.

‘**Clara Brooks**’ 1949- White, occasionally spotted pink. Med. semi to anemone. V.U. M.

‘**Clara Brooks Pink**’ 1949. Pink sport of Clara Brooks.

‘**Darling Pink**’ 1950. Rose pink with frosty white in center. Large formal. M.

‘**Dubonnet**’ 1952. Dark wine red w/darker veining. Med. Semi. to peony. V.U. M.

‘**Evergreen Pink**’ 1947. Light pink. Medium. Loose peony. V. M.

‘**Gilbert Fisher**’ 1950. Light rose red, sometimes spotted white. Large semi. with large petaloids. V.S.U. M.

‘**Jason Malbis**’ 1952. Red and white.

Medium semi-double.

‘**Lady Dunn**’ 1936. Lt. rose pink occas. blotched white. Med. peony to formal. S.W.M.

‘**La Sorella**’ 1945. Red to white and pink. Medium rose form.

‘**Mary Jane**’ 1949. Red. Large loose peony. V.B. M.

‘**Mrs. Chester Burgess**’ 1950. Rose pink. Large loose peony. Bushy growth. M.

‘**Nafsika**’ 1948. Shell pink w/light fuschia shading. Med. full peony. V.U. M.

‘**Oriental Bride**’ 1947. Pink red. Medium. Peony. V.

‘**Pansy McIntyre**’ 1949-Dark red. Large semi-double to peony. V.U. M.

‘**Prince Henry**’ 1945. Red spotted white. Medium rose form.

‘**Purple Girl**’ 1960. Pink with purple cast. Med. semi. with loose petals. M.

‘**Purple Heart**’ 1949. Dark purplish red. Medium. Formal double. A.B. L.

‘**Red Prince**’ 1945. Red. Large. Peony.

‘**Theresa Marie**’ Mid-1900s. White spotted pink & red. Med. rose to peony. V.

‘**Uncle John**’ 1955. Purple red. Large, full peony.

‘**Uncle Tom**’ 1948. Light purplish pink. Medium. Full peony. V.B. M.

A = Average growth

B = Bushy growth

C = Compact growth

M = Mid-season bloom

V = Vigorous

U = Upright



‘*Mary Jane Var.*’ 1949.
Malbis Nursery, Daphne,
AL



‘*Uncle Tom*’ 1948.
Malbis Nursery, Daphne,
AL

Hillar Park Camellia Garden

By Steve Manis, Gautier, MS

All the camellia clubs look for projects to give back to their communities and Mississippi Gulfcoast Camellia Society is no different. A member, Martha Boyce is active in our club functions and also serves on the Harrison County planning board and is the executive director for Hiller Park, Biloxi, MS.

Martha came to our meeting and suggested that our club take a portion of Hiller Park and turn it into a camellia garden. Hiller Park is not a botanical garden. Hiller Park is a mid-city well used community park with community gardens, children's playgrounds, splash pads, picnic tables and all the activities of a center city park.

The club had the city landscape director come speak at a meeting. He outlined the area where the camellia garden could be located. The club could do just about anything they pleased within the area. We were invited to design the garden and send the design for him for approval. The area given to work with was not choice loam soil but it was an area full of rocks, trees and years of hard trodden soil.

Club members met at the park on a cold and rainy day, it was not a festive kickoff day. We painted the pathways and gave the architect our crude pictures. He immediately approved the design. In the design we had put ten camellia japonicas and outlined the area with a couple dozen sasanquas. Since this is a community garden, most all plantings were to be on their own.

There would not be a regular watering/fertilizing schedule. It was suggested that any signage be robust and cheap. Metal objects have a tendency to walk away. Edging tends to heave out of the ground or rot within years.

There was plenty of good news concerning the park project. The park is near Keesler Air

Force base and a Navy Seabee base. Both military bases were most willing to provide muscle and brawn for the garden installation. They would clean up the area, plant everything and serve as the manpower to get the garden installed. The City of Biloxi would provide tools, mulch and equipment. They would cut down some unwanted water oaks, mulch the trees and use the mulch as path materials.



Jana Harry and members of the MGCS preparing air layers for the Hiller Park Camellia Garden.

The club had several meetings concerning the plantings. We wanted hardy camellias registered by Gulf Coast camellia growers. We discussed the plants we



MGCS members air layering plants for the Hiller Park Garden.

wanted with members and known growers. The choosing of the plants was difficult. Some camellias registered by Gulfcoast growers are nice but not outstanding. Some locally developed japonicas were not hardy enough to withstand the rigors of neglect. The club decided to have a mixture of camellias registered by Gulfcoast growers (Beauvior, Broadwater, Elaines' Betty, Melissa Anne) and camellias known for their hardiness and blooms (Henry Huntington, Mathotiana, Royal Velvet). We had a meeting/grafting parties at several members' gardens and air layered the japonicas we wanted. It was felt that the air grafts would be available quicker and larger than if we cleft-grafted specimens. This fall we will be planting the air layered plants and the border sasanquas.

Pictures at Reta and Bill Rester's garden by Jana Harry.



C. japonica 'Beauvior' 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clower, Gulfport, MS (photo Misells)



C. japonica 'Melissa Anne' 1995, Dr. L. Audioun, Biloxi, MS (photo Maphis)



C. japonica 'Broadwater' 1968, L. B. Wilson, Jr., Gukfport, MS (photo K. Campbell)

AROUND THE GULF COAST

BIRMINGHAM CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Cindy Warriner, President, Birmingham Camellia Society

While this was actually the Birmingham Camellia Society's 69th annual show, this year marked our seventh show focusing entirely on local blooms. The show was held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and anyone living in the Birmingham area was eligible to compete. Because many people here have camellias in their yards but don't know the varieties, prizes were awarded in categories such as, Best Red, Best Pink, etc., for unprotected and protected blooms. We also awarded prizes for Best Plate of Three and for Best Heritage Bloom.

Heritage blooms are unique camellia varieties which were developed by local growers in our area – about thirty cultivars in total. Over the years some of these treasures have been lost, but we

are propagating plants from all available specimens, so they may be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. Heritage varieties include 'Magic City,' 'Evelyn Poe,' and 'Louise Hairston.'

Judges for the show were Tom Warriner, Cindy Warriner, Dr Paul Petznick, and Bill Dodson, all of whom are certified ACS judges. Experienced camellia fans from Birmingham were also be available to discuss particular camellia problems or answer questions. Those wishing help in identifying camellia blooms from their yard were encouraged to bring them to the "Name That Bloom" table.

We plan to have an air layering event for club members in May.





BRCC Workday. Members repotting last years grafts and cuttings. L to R. Mike Ruth, Joe Landry, Alethea O'Quinn, Elmo Dean, Joe Holmes, Kay Clark and Ann Ruth.



NR hyb. 'Taylor's Perfection' Blooming in UWF Garden.

AROUND THE

THE



Jim Smelley, Moss Point, MS celebrated his 98th birthday this spring.



Busy camellia sales, in foreground, Christi Hankins, far left, Bill Walter



NR hyb 'Freedom Bell' at UWF Camellia Garden.



John and Lauren Mate-- toward the end of the busy UWF Garden Tours. and Sale.



PCC camellia sales-- Dick Hooton, in charge of plant sale talks to customers..



Dr. Tom Birdwell, left, and John Davy, rt. Both joined PCC same year, about 40 years ago.



PCC Members--- Lee Vanderpool and Louise Seitz



Debbie Brown, PCC membership chair, and Trumin Brown, PCC board member. Debbie gave out information on the gardens and signed up new members.

GULF COAST

PCC Photos by Norman Vickers.



PCC camellia sales at the UWF Garden, foreground, left John Davy, foreground right Alan McMillan.

GCCS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2018

Linda Allen, 18241 Tabony Lane, Livingston, LA 70754 225-572-7359
lindallen9@gmail.com

American Camellia Society, 100 Masee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030-9100
478-967-2358 ask@americancamellias.org

Becky Aucoin, 944 Feliciana Crossing, Jackson, LA 70748 225-921-1395
becky.aucoin@yahoo.com

Michael Ballard, P.O. Box 66196 Mobile, AL 36660-1196 251-473-4228
mballard@uhblaw.com

Lawrence D. Barlow, 3591 Kentucky Trail, Chesapeake, VA 23323 757-805-2043
larrybarlow@cavtel.net

Larry & Stephanie Bates, 3519 Hwy 112, Forest Hill, LA 71430 731-514-6277
larryvbates@hotmail.com

Al & Victoria Baugh, 31287 Blakeley Ridge Ct., Spanish Fort, AL 36527-5136
251-895-9932 vmb_baugh@bellsouth.net

David Bazer, 700 Livingston Ave., Shreveport, LA 71107 318-424-0472
davebazer@bellsouth.net

Ronald & Dean Benko, 911 W. Church St., Hammond, LA 70401 504-231-7191
ronbenko@gmail.com

Paula Bennett, 2 Begonia Dr. Covington, LA 70433 985-893-7740
pichuputti@bellsouth.net

Edna H. Bishop, 402 Becker, Brookhaven, MS 39601 601-833-1162
j_bishop1@bellsouth.net

Ms. Joan I. Blanchard, 2020 W. Romana St., Pensacola, FL 32502 850-432-4216
jblanc6000@aol.com

Julie Bogan, 5134 Chamberlain Dr., New Orleans, LA 70122-2528 504-638-8855
jrbogan@bellsouth.net

Shawn M. Bone, 14514 Lazy Oaks Ct., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 225-772-1900
labones4@gmail.com

Dudley Boudreaux, P.O. Box 146, Port Neches, TX 77651-0146 409-722-4994
dboudreaux@gt.rr.com

David & Tammy Brackin, 24400 Gean Rd., Summerdale, AL 36580 251-550-9675
davidandtammybrackin@gmail.com

Susan & Allen Bradley, 123 Imperial Woods Dr., Harahan, LA 70123 504-667-3026
suebrad@bellsouth.net

Leo E. Broders, Jr., 543 Seyburn Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-5562 225-766-3972
leoegr@bellsouth.net

Rose Anne Brodie, 145 Crape Myrtle Rd., Covington, LA 70433 985-892-6246

Tim Brown, 142 Sportsman's Dr., Belle Rose, LA 70341 985-252-8400
rtbrown45@yahoo.com

Leo Brown, 8600 Tutwiler Ln., Mobile, AL 36619-4330 251-633-7279
lbro40@aol.com

Patty & James Burnett Jr., 140 Burnett Gardens Rd., DeRidder, LA 70634 377-462-0855

Allen Bush, 880 Western Lake Dr., Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 ajb1@swbell.net

Maia & Tom Butler, 1265 Knollwood Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-281-5180
maiahelene@aol.com

James Green Campbell, 16068 Riverside Dr., Covington, LA 70435-7923
985-630-9899 rivercamellia@bellsouth.net

Kenn & Ruby Campbell, 3310 Fairway Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1817
225-923-1697 kennbc@cox.net

Mana Chaffin, P.O. Box 199, Lillian TX 76061-0199 817-825-4777
mana@earth.works

Hunter & Meg Charbonnet, 16423 Summerhill Rd., Covington, LA 70435 985-809-3168
hcharbol@gmail.com

Rebecca Christian, 1458 Applewood Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-921-4258
rebeccaschristian@gmail.com

Vincent Ciolino, P.O. Box 1527, Covington, LA 70434-1527 985-773-4547

Ken & Kay Clark, 6973 Whitlow Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-767-7939
2kkclark@gmail.com

Jennifer Cline, 14126 Chenal Rd., Jarreau, LA 70749 225-627-9243
jcline0261@gmail.com

Candace Collins, MD, 2211 Idle Oaks Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 985-502-8755
candacecollins@gmail.com

Carol Comber, 521 Long Lake Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506-5683 850-455-8496
cjeanc2@yahoo.com

Paul & Joan Cooper, 2720 Metairie Ct., Metairie, LA 70002 504-650-1020
mimijoan2@bellsouth.net

Mac & Peggy Corban, 822 E. Beach, Long Beach, MS 39560-1430 228-864-4352
magruderscor@cableone.net

Peggy Cox, 53088 S. Bennett Rd., Independence, LA 70443 985-878-4128
peggyjo_cox@yahoo.com

Pamela Cox, 500 Dewey Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564 228-217-8570
pcox0516@yahoo.com

Nancy Crawford, 1616 Lobdell Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-925-8536
nancy.crawford333@yahoo.com

Mark & Sherrida Crawford, 2867 Carroll Ulmer Rd., Valdosta, GA 31601
229-460-5922 craw142@bellsouth.net

Walter & Alice Creighton, 2685 Snow Rd. N., Semmes, AL 36575-6805
251-649-1426 wmabc@bellsouth.net

Florence Crowder, 1149 Cockerham Rd., Denham Springs, LA 70726 225-405-2487
florence.crowder@cox.net

John & Priscilla Dale, 549 Duncan Ave., Natchez, MS 39120 601-431-7311
priscillad@bellsouth.net

Caroline Dickson, 72 N. Highlands Dr., Poplarville, MS 39470-6434 601-403-8269
mcdpopcamellia@bellsouth.net

Jim & Carolyn Dickson, 353 River Wind Dr., North Augusta, SC 29841 803-279-9451
cjdickson@bellsouth.net

Bob Dillemoth, 5848 Guava Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-614-1228
crdillemoth@att.net

Cassandra G. Dillon, P.O. Box 1482, Pascagoula, MS 39568

Dr. William H. & Ann Dodson, 4311 Kennesaw Dr., Birmingham, AL 35213
205-871-2827 wdodson4311@charter.net

Benjamin Drury, 6307 Landmark Dr., Alexandria, LA 71301-2343

James & Eileen Dwyer, 14040 Riverside Dr., Foley, AL 36535 251-752-1590
jdwyer@gulftel.com

Theta Egnew, 77 Shady Lane Dr., Slidell, LA 70461 985-643-3240
egnewa@bellsouth.net

Richard & Sarah Eidem, 11363 Newton Circle, Conroe, TX 77303-3249
 936-264-2437 saraheidem505@gmail.com

Martina Ellis, P O Box 605, Amite, LA 70422 985-748-6038
martinaellis1945@gmail.com

Shirley Estes, 504 Becker St., Brookhaven, MS 39601 601-833-8390
bogewild@bellsouth.net

Edward & Linda Estrada, 74 Red Sable Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77380-2600
 281-367-7168 lindaestra@aol.com

Ann C. Evans, 606 Cheyenne Rd., Montgomery, TX 77316 936-537-2009
tommyboyevas@hotmail.com

Verna & William Fletcher, 10430 Tiger Bend Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70817
 225-753-7430 whf07@cox.net

David J. W. Floyd, P. O. Box 1248, St. Francisville, LA 70775

Richard & Sandra Frank 1018 Stonewall Dr. Nashville TN 37220-1023
 615-383-7058 cdrfrank@bellsouth.net

Alice & Katherine Fresina, 8654 Forest Hill Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809
 225-927-2359 fresinam@bellsouth.net

Bill & Alice Gamble, 5118 Queensloch Dr., Houston, TX 77096-4130 713-661-0327
wrgamble711@aol.com

Katherine Geeker, 4090 Bayou Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32503 850-438-2129

Sara E. Gillespie, P.O. Box 15517, Hattiesburg, MS39404-5517

Hurley & Carolyn Griffing, 86387 Mockigbird Hill Rd., Franklinton, LA 70438-8605
 985-796-8662 ckhurleyg@cs.com

John L. Grimm, 4113 Transcontinental Dr., Metairie, LA 70006-2645 504-610-7828
camelliasaver@multi-quest.net

Louise Poe Hairston, 2540 Aberdeen Rd., Birmingham, AL 35223-1057 205-993-1180

Harold & Caryl Hall, 1102 Millard Dr., Nacogdoches, TX 75965-2640 936-560-3322
hehall1@suddenlink.net

Christi Hankins, 3808 W. Cervantes St., Pensacola, FL 32505-7354 850-324-8552

Linda F. Harkey, P O Box 83376, Baton Rouge, LA 70884 225-241-0073
lharkey@cox.net

Jim Harrison, 18662 Clear Creek Ln., Covington, LA 70435-7638 985-898-6349
jim.harrison@earthlink.net

Dennis Hart, 1403 Adams St., New Orleans, LA 70118 504-866-2490
dlhart98@aol.com

Eileen Hart, 16921 Crawley Rd., Odessa, FL 33556 813-920-2987
eplants@hotmail.com

Margaret Hawkins, 255 W. Oak St., Ponchatoula, LA 70454 985-386-6174
wildoak3009@live.com

Larry Heard, 4213 Halls Mill Rd., Mobile, AL 36693 251-661-3608
Larry_Heard@bellsouth.net

Pat & Connie Hegwood, 35 Belle Meade Rd., Holly Springs, MS 38635-6006
 225-266-6054 chegwood2@gmail.com

George & Darlene Hirasaki, 4905 Linden St., Bellaire, TX 77401-4434 713-662-2946
ghirasaki@att.net

Wayne & Jo Hiter, 6516 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-769-1947
gwhiter@cox.net

Kathleen Hoffpaur, 12620 Humphreys Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70816 225-333-0136
khoffpaur1115@gmail.com

Jerry & Harriet Hogsette, 11407 SW 24th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32607-1233
 352-328-6839 jhogsett@bellsouth.net

Joe & Laura Holmes, 11931 Indigo Dr., St. Francisville, LA 70775 225-721-2084
josephcjr@bellsouth.net

Col. & Mrs. Richard J. Hooton, 6510 Scenic Hwy., Pensacola, FL 32504-9164
 850-969-0001 bdhooton@cox.net

Arthur & Eva Hoover, 10155 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 225-766-0712
amhoover2@gmail.com

Joyce & Andy Houdek, 226 Leeds Dr., Slidell, LA 70461-5060 985-726-5187

Paul Huerkamp, P. O. Box 57, Pearl River, LA 70452 985-863-8462
kamellair@aol.com

Susan Hultgren, 1949 Woodland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-927-2309
slphillips@cox.net

Amanda Jacobson

Trent & Kay James, P.O. Box 14507, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4507 225-247-3011
trentonlj@aol.com

Hilma & Joseph Jenus, 213 Eldredge Rd., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-1307
 850-862-4526 joejenus@gmail.com

Michael Jinks, 323 Magnolia Dr., Gulf Shores, AL 36542-4407 601-757-1868
michael@jinxonline.com

Charlie Johnson, 7734 Tipperary Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-341-0856
cejohn826@gmail.com

Fred & Sandra Jones, 2056 Dunn Rd., Moultrie, GA 31768 229-941-5774
sandrayjones@windstream.net

Kaye Kaberlein, 2070 Fred Martin Road, Summit, MS 39666 601-249-2967
kaberlein607@gmail.com

Dan & Lynda Kain, 650 Stonewall Jackson Dr., Conroe, TX 77302 936-714-2770
jdkain@icloud.com

Mrs. Judy B. Kerr, 8724 Foxtail Loop, Pensacola, FL 32526-3237 850-529-9893
judy.kerr@cox.net

Bradford King, 1530 Marendale Ln., Arcadia, CA 91006 626-445-8730
bdk@usc.edu

Nicholas Kooney, 542 Mele Place, Diamond Head, MS 39525-3328 228-363-0361
nkooney6@gmail.com

Walter & Gerry Krzymowski, 159 W. Pinewood Dr., Slidell, LA 70458-1346
 985-643-1794 3_ krizmo@bellsouth.net

Jeff S. Kuehny, 9561 Bank St., Clinton, LA 70722

Art & Janet Landry, 10522 Ferncliff Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70815-5213
 225-275-2119 aplndry@bellsouth.net

Joe & Marcia Landry, 867 Myrtle View Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 832-335-0353
jelandry@sbcglobal.net

Josef Wright & Lauren Landry, 4809 Iberville St., New Orleans, LA 70119
 504-486-4951 llandry12@cox.net

Mary Jane Lane, 8001 Nelson St., New Orleans, LA 70125 504-430-3776
mjlane54@gmail.com

William F. Lange, 12 Zettel Rd., Ocean Springs, MS 39564 228-327-0404
albert3ct@gmail.com

Brenda Lary, 5000 Longmont Dr. #6, Houston, TX 77056 713-961-0741
brendablary@gmail.com

Forrest S. Latta, 4708 Old Shell Rd., Mobile, AL 36608 251-345-8212
forrest.latta@burr.com

Steve & Gayle Lawrence, 8030 Bernard St., Tallahassee, FL 32317 850-656-8348
slawrence61@comcast.net

Brian & Sally LeBourgeois, 4705 Southshore Dr., Metairie, LA 70002-1432
504-455-9664 sallygator@aol.com

Al & Doris Lefebvre, 15226 Government St., Gulfport, MS 39503-2877 228-832-2405

Gaye Lehr, 2168 LaSalleAve., Terrytown, LA 70056-4515 504-393-6769

Peggy Le Vrier, 14331 Walker Rd., Conroe, TX 77302 281-429-2587

Bruce & Karen Lewis, P.O. Box 1963, Woodville, MS 39669 601-431-1935
karenhlewis2@gmail.com

Brenda Litchfield, 6163 Bayou Rd., Mobile, AL 36605 251-622-1930
bcl6163@gmail.com

Doris Liukkonen, 314 Carrolton Ave., Metairie, LA 70005 504-813-1137
jrdbl@cox.net

Rodney & Rose Mary Lowe, 61239 Roosevelt Rd., Slidell, LA 70458 985-641-0730
ewolr@aol.com

Steven Manis, 1281 Homestead Blvd., Gautier, MS 39553 228-249-4115
steven.manis@mgccc.edu

Lynn Manthei, P. O. Box 296, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562-0296 850-723-5175

Don & Jenny Marcotte, 11 Whippoorwill Dr., Huntsville, TX 77340936-295-8056
funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net

Edward & Cindy Martin, 8845 Highway 23, Belle Chase, LA 70037504-912-4134
eddiezm51@gmail.com

Luigi & Patricia Marzilli, 12980 Springview Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810-4935
225-766-9217 pmarzil@gmail.com

Trent & Ann Massengale, 5305 Flanders Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-753-3825
atmass@cox.net

Ray McCleary, 6006 Tremayne Dr., Mount Dora, FL 32757-8021 352-383-1786
raymccleary@gmail.com

Ruby E. McConnell, 21 Snowbird Pl., The Woodlands, TX 77381-4153 281-292-5472
rgmcc@earthlink.net

Theresa Ann Miller, 313 Pine Dr., Ocean Springs, MS 39564 228-365-8163
skoshi313@juno.com

Lisa Miller, 11377 Coleman Rd., Gulfport, MS 39503-4138228-832-7807
lisapmiller27@gmail.com

Richard Mims, 409 Groves St., Lugoff, SC 29078-9343 803-572-5353
richardmims@ymail.com

Paige Mizell, 12497 Joseph's Rd., Folsom, LA 70437 985-796-3209
mizellscamelliahillnursery@aol.com

David & Mary Mizell, P. O. Box 721, Folsom, LA 70437 985-796-3209
mizellmary@aol.com

Tyler B. Mizzell, 117 Green St., Santee, SC 29142 803-854-3046

Patricia & Allen Mocklin, 4528 Jasper St., Metairie, LA 70006 504-454-5820
amocklin@gmail.com

Mickey Moore, 172 US Hwy 19N, Americus, GA 31719-8200 229-928-9416
mooremm@bellsouth.net

Len & Susan Moran, 16097 Sweet Carolyn Rd., Biloxi, MS 39532 228-392-3792
moranelect@gmail.com

Carl & Jaqueline Moran, 7730 Manini Way, Diamondhead, MS 39525 228-342-4531
drcmoran@aol.com

Thekla Morris, 579 Man O'War Circle, Cantonment, FL 32533-6521 850-476-4080

Marilyn & Maurice Nassar, 236 W. Woodstone Ct., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-5148
 225-766-5045 felicianalady1607@bellsouth.net

David Nihart, 7 Shepard Ln., Mobile, AL 36608-2327 nihartlaw@gmail.com

Deborah Nolan, 437 Choctaw Dr., Abita Springs, LA 70420 337-278-2423
mamere09@gmail.com

North Shore Camellia Club, 16423 Summerhill Rd., Covington, LA 70435 985-705-3052
hcharbol@gmail.com

Julie Nunez, 208 Willow Circle, Mandeville, LA 70471 504-289-1588
julienunez@bellsouth.net

James Oates, P.O. Box 514, Daphne, AL 36526-0514 251-626-0203

Alethea & Dave O'Quinn, 14212 Buccaneer Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 225-753-2144
ahoquinn@bellsouth.net

Allen Owings, P.O. Box 910, Robert, LA 70455 225-603-8096
aowings64@gmail.com

Don & Carolyn Oyler, 4027 Oyler Rd., Mobile, AL 36695-8849 251-404-9261
turkeycreek02@bellsouth.net

Hong Park, 13325 S. Memorial Pkwy, Huntsville, AL 38503 256-533-6700
airpropagator@gmail.com

Neal & Lorraine Pendleton, 218 Lourdes Lane, Covington, LA 70435-6119 985-246-6688

Jimmy & Patti Perkins, 510 McNair Ave., Brookhaven, MS 39601-3746 601-757-3785
perkins@sleekcom.com

Dr. Paul Gaston Petznick, 2541 Canterbury Rd., Mountain Brook, AL 35223
 205-603-8259 pgpelp@bellsouth.net

Gerald & Sharon Phares, 22101 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
 225-261-3123

Gym Philipps, 1248 Orleans St., Mandeville, LA 70448-4140 985-626-1898

Jimmy Phillips, 652 Concordia St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-603-1467

Pat Phillips, 5315 Greenside Ln., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-343-3968
pwpphillips@cox.net

Charles & Gerry Phillips, 53 Granada Dr., Kenner, LA 70065 504-701-1272
cphillips@tuftsenergy.com

Pat Phillips, 5315 Greenside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Nickolas Piazza, Jr., 13 Glacier St., Kenner, LA 70065-1004 504-616-4378
npiazzajr@gmail.com

Mike & Della Pigott, P.O. Box 1639 Sulphur, LA 70664-1639

Jan Pourciau, 14994 LA Hwy 421, St. Francisville, LA 70775 225-715-7942
janpourciau@gmail.com

Carolyn Quinn, 1477 Mill Rd., Gulfport, MS 39507 228-896-1642
cissymccabe@bellsouth.net

Gordon Rabalais, 1030 A South River Dr., Arnaudville, LA 70512-3123 337-230-1853
mrsarabalais@aol.com

Bill & Cheryl Rawls, 7567 Tara Blvd. S., Spanish Fort, AL 36527 251-626-5982
wfrnatchez@att.net

Bill Ray, 885 5th St., Florala, AL 36442 334-858-3392 bray@fairpoint.net
 Glenn & Jill Read, 1141 W. Fire Dept. Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452 601-947-6592
glennreadcamellianursery@yahoo.com
 Jill Reed, 19800 North Hwy. 329, Micanopy, FL 32667 352-591-4343
whiteables@juno.com
 Bill & Reta Rester, 52 Lyons Rd., Perkinston, MS 39573 601-928-9322
rrgreen_99@yahoo.com
 Bernadette Richard, 5885 Lavey Ln. Lot# 31, Baker, LA 70714-4262 337-351-6825
bernadette.richard@la.gov
 Homer & Lynn Richardson, 1545 Friendship Lane NW, Brookhaven, MS 39601
 601-833-4126 homerrichardson@att.net
 Ida Roberts, 42343 Norwood Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737 225-975-0113
irobertsbisque@cox.net
 Becky Root, 2100 River Forest Drive, Mobile, AL 36605 251-479-0454
byroot@yahoo.com
 Michael & Ann Ruth, 726 High Plains Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 225-767-1388
mruthmd@gmail.com
 Charles & Letha Sandifer, 2324 Palm Hills Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809
 225-925-1573 ripajs@cox.net
 Norma Savage, 4016 Sentinel Dr., Moss Point, MS 39562-8019 228-327-1079
normajean2532@gmail.com
 Blake & Candy Schexnayder, 19112 Liberty Rd., Pride, LA 70770 225-718-4584
cjeansonne@cox.net
 Jim & Jo Anne Sealy, 703 Weatherly Rd. SE, Huntsville, AL 35803-1138
 256-426-5998 jsealy@knology.net
 Barry Sechrist, 12001 Indigo Dr., St. Francisville, LA 70775 225-245-0095
barrysechrist@ymail.com
 Louise Seitz, 2082 Hwy 196, Molino, FL 32577-7060 850-780-0410
 Connie Serrano, 793 Ridge Road, Pensacola, FL 32514-1546 850-455-2271
 Claudette Shelfer, 11711 Memorial Dr. #539, Houston, TX 77024-7232 713-468-6803
ckshou36@comcast.net
 Jim Smelley, 4831 Devon St., Moss Point, MS 39563-2401 228-475-9736
 Major Malcom D. Smith, 112 Heritage Hills Dr., Prattville, AL 36067-2002
 334-365-5345
 Steve Smith, 910 Louisa St., New Orleans, LA 70117 504-812-8668
ssmithnola@yahoo.com
 Peter & Lynnette Soules, 22128 5th Street, Abita Springs, LA 70420-3740
 985-893-2418 lynnabita@hotmail.com
 Bob & Erin Stroud, 2 Oak Grove Way, Slidell, LA 70458-8224 985-643-7156
rastroud@bellsouth.net
 John & Dinh Swanson, 2607 NW 25th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32605-2826 352-672-2644
jndswanson@bellsouth.net
 Carol Tanksley, 8012 Eastwood Ln., Pensacola, FL 32514-6551 850-477-3066
 Kay & Robert Taylor, 113 Blackbeard Dr., Slidell, LA 70461 985-643-7153
robertwtaylor@bellsouth.net
 C. Warren & Cheryl Thompson, 602 Forrest Dr., Fort Valley, GA 31030-3612
 478-825-2559 cherwart_2@att.net

Patricia Todes, 39109 7th Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542-4538 813-780-6114
patotodes@yahoo.com

Victor H. & JoAnn Treat, P.O. Box 143, College Station, TX 77841 979-846-8172
victor.treat@verizon.net

Bonnie G. Trippe, 105 Rue de Bourbon, Slidell, LA 70461-5231 985-290-2577
bgtrippe@aol.com

Nicole Tygier, 21 Hawk St., New Orleans, LA 70124-4118 504-975-3719
ntygier@nolacounsel.com

Lee & Dot Vanderpool, 902 Middle Drive. Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547-2850
850-862-7592

Hal Vanis, 15711 CR 4255 S, Henderson, TX 75654 903-854-4517

F. Norman Vickers, 5429 Dynasty Dr., Pensacola, FL 32504-8583 850-484-9183
nvickers1@cox.net

Lynn Vicknair, 1632 Steele Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225-802-8785
lynnv@cox.net

Roger & Ellen Vinson, 1905 E. Strong St., Pensacola, FL 32501 850-432-2593
roger_vinson@flnd.uscourts.gov

Skip Vogelsang, 4760 Shannon Pl., Pensacola, FL 32504 850-776-7951
lbv3rd@gmail.com

Jimmy Walker, 8600 Tutwiler Ln., Mobile, AL 36619-4330 251-633-7279
wjtiger40@aol.com

Darrel Wall, 10093 Rain Crow Hollow, Hammond, LA 70401 225-567-2019
loblolly@bellsouth.net

Dana Wallace-Ladner, 2868 Concord Lane, SW, Bogue Chitto, MS 39626
601-754-2694

Tom & Cindy Warriner, 5022 Mark Trail, Birmingham, AL 35242 850-803-1161
photocrafttom@gmail.com

Thomas Weeks, 11281 Jake Pearson Rd., Conroe, TX 77304-9711 281-723-9822
tommyweeks@consolidated.net

Virginia Weinmann, 29 Nassau Dr., Metairie, LA 70005 504-833-1609
vewein@gmail.com

Donna Welch, 4995 Callot St., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-0802 225-503-6607
dwelch@lsu.edu

Kenny & Diana Wells, 4841 Abella Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-1903
225-927-8646 indiana@lsu.edu

Michelle Whitney, 247 Rue Destin, Sunset, LA 70584 337-668-4342
rodriqueztoo526@gmail.com

David & Sandra Williams, P.O. Box 67, Roberta, GA 31078 478-836-4249
dscm@pstel.net

Alice Witcher, 1934 Steele Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-1673 225-336-4147
cusnr@aol.com

Ron & Elizabeth Wolfe, 2019 Old Dominion Dr., Albany, GA 31721 229-883-2349
wolfe_er@bellsouth.net



In the Summer Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA



The heat and humidity in the summer months in our region is enough to discourage garden activities. Don't let these conditions keep you from doing a few things with your camellia plants, which will reward you with their beautiful blooms in fall and winter.

Mulch: Add new mulch on top of your old mulch (if not already done) to maintain 2 to 3 inches of organic mulch material, which will break down over time (chopped leaves, pine bark mulch, pine straw, etc.) The mulch is essential during the summer months to help maintain moisture, keep the soil cooler, and retard the growth of weeds. The decaying (older) mulch will produce essential nutrients for the plant including trace elements so essential to good growth and flowering. After several years of adding mulch, you can substantially reduce your fertilizer since the plant will get a lot of the nutrients it needs from the decaying mulch.

Fertilizing: Plants in the ground do not generally need much fertilizer and it could promote excessive new growth in late summer. Container grown plants should be fertilized lightly each month until about September with a slow release formula containing trace elements (such as "Nursery Special," "Growers Supreme," "Osmocote Plus," etc. or equivalent) since some of the nutrients are washed out of the container every time it is watered. When you water, use a good slow soaking of the root system so that the water can be absorbed by the soil. Wait until the soil dries before watering again.

Disbudding: When the flower buds are easily identified (usually around June and July for most varieties) then you can

begin disbudding your established plants. Removing the extra bloom buds from the plant will reward you in several ways.

Established camellias usually set about 3 times more flower buds than the plant will support opening into flowers. (Of course a small plant with few buds is the exception.) If the extra buds are left on the plant, many will not open at all and many will try to open late in the season producing small or partially opened blooms. Removing these extra buds will let the plant put its energy into the remaining buds you left on the plant. You will get larger flowers and most of them will open for you.

Here is how to disbud an established camellia plant. Start by removing (they will snap off easily when bent away from the growth bud) all multiple buds – leave only one flower bud on each stem. Once you've done this, you can go back and remove every other bud you left on the plant. The result will be about 1/3 of the original buds left on the plant to bloom in the winter. You'll be surprised at the difference and happy with the resulting bigger and better blooms.

We often get this question after each blooming season is over: "My camellia had a lot of buds but hardly any of them bloomed. Why?" Part of the answer is the excess number of buds that established camellia plants usually produce and disbudding in the summer as described above often will solve the problem. As a general rule, late blooming varieties do not give us a satisfactory blooming season in southern states because of these factors.



Camellia Quiz

Name these Miss, Mr., and Mrs. camellia japonicas. Answers on page 28.



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

Editor's Notes

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



The grafting season was a bust for me this year. I only have four left out of 12 grafts. The 12°F night hurt them badly. I am glad I didn't get around to doing more. However, the several hundred grafts we made at Burden Gardens seem to be doing fine. I guess the shade house they were in provided protection.

At the beginning of May, you will find camellias in full bloom on the west coast of Scotland. My friend Duncan Beaton again sends pictures that he took recently in Inveraray on Loch Fyne in the West of Scotland. It seems strange to find camellias doing well here as it is the same latitude as Newfoundland. However, the warm currents of the Gulf Stream make growing camellias possible. The Williamsii hybrids seem to out perform the japonicas in this area. Duncan has both kinds in his garden at Furnace, about 10 miles south of Inveraray.



This unidentified camellia is growing in the courtyard of Inveraray Castle. See back cover for more.



Inveraray Castle, (the seat of Torquil Campbell, the Duke of Argyll and Chief of Clan Campbell) has extensive gardens which includes many camellias.



This old 'Donation' seems to be doing well in spite of the crushed limestone mulch covering its roots.

Camellia Quiz Answers

1. 'Mr. J. D.' 1997, C. Elliott, GA
2. 'Miss Lucy' 1976, T. E. Lundy, FL
3. 'Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso' 1970, CA
4. 'Miss Charleston Var' 1961, W.I. McGill, SC
5. 'Mrs. Charles Cobb' Early 1900s, Magnolia, SC
6. 'Mister Sam' 1964, GA

Camellia Websites

American Camellia Society
www.americancamellias.org

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

Baton Rouge Camellia Society
www.facebook.com/brcamellias

Birmingham Camellia Society
www.birminghamcamellias.com

Brookhaven Camellia Society
www.homerrichardson.com/camellia

Camellia Society of North Florida
www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html

Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX
www.coushattacamelliasociety.org

Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society
www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety

Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society
www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Gainesville%20CS.html

Gulf Coast Camellia Society
www.gulfcoastcamellias.com
www.facebook.com/gulfcoastcamelliasociety

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society
www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society

Mobile Camellia Society
www.mobilecamellia.org

Northshore Camellia Society
www.northshorecamelliasociety.org

Pensacola Camellia Club
www.pensacolacamelliaclub.com

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

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join



C. japonica "Adalyn" 1995, by F. Wilson, Leslie, GA



C. japonica "Otome" Form Japan 1911 by Tusukisa Kiyono, Semmes, AL



C. japonica "Big Beauty" 1941, by E. A. McHenry, Avery Island, LA



C. japonica "Clover Red" 1951, by Mr & Mrs Thomas Clover, Gulfport, MS

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: _____

E-mail: _____

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Officers and Board Members 2016 - 2017

President Caroline Dickson
72 N. Highlands Dr.
Poplarville, MS 39470
(601) 403-8269
mcdpopcamellia@bellsouth.net

First Vice-President Dennis Hart
1403 Adams St.
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 866-2490 dlhart98@aol.com

Treasurer Michael Ruth
726 High Plains Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70810
225) 767-1388 mruthmd@gmail.com

Secretary Rebecca Christian
4634 Hyacinth Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 930-9330 rebeccaschristian@gmail.com

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Webmaster	James Dwyer, Mobile, AL

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3310 Fairway Drive

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

(225) 923-1697 kennbc@cox.net

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Camellias growing in the courtyard of Inveraray Castle, Inveraray, Argyll, Scotland. The pink ones are williamsii hybrids 'Donation' - the red one not identified.