

THE GULF COAST

Camellian

Autumn 2018

Volume 44 No. 4



C. japonica 'Aaron's Ruby'

A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society

The Gulf Coast Camellian

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From the Cover



Camellia japonica ‘Aaron’s Ruby’

A 9-year old chance seedling originated by Ruby Aaron (Mrs. B. A.) Ragusa of Lake Charles, LA in 1956. The semi-double to anemone form flowers are a brilliant metallic red and are 12.5 to 15 cm. in diameter. The flower has a spicy fragrance and flowers mid-season to late.

President's Message

Caroline Dickson
Poplarville, Mississippi



I hope to see many of you at the annual GCCS Meeting being held in Pensacola, Florida on October 15 and 16, 2018. Bette Hooton has multiple helpers preparing for a wonderful conference.

I want to thank Jim Dwyer for accepting the assignment of maintaining the GCCS web site. We thank Homer Richardson for his many years as web master. Go Daddy is the new web host. Clubs can post a link to their web page or Facebook page by sending their information to Jim Dwyer. Both the old and new sites will appear in search engines. The new site starts with http and has the word "society" in the domain name.

Rebecca Christian has been busy establishing the nominating committee for the next officers of GCCS. We look forward to welcoming the candidates for offices at the October 2018 annual meeting.

In my own camellia garden, this spring I scraped away all old mulch instead of just adding a couple of inches of new wood mulch. What I found was that the dense red clay base had camellia roots at the surface. To protect the roots, I added an inch of quarry sand and three inches of wood mulch. I have not used rubber or rock mulch in the summer heat of Mississippi. Poplarville, MS is already at a spring moisture deficit with scant rain for forty days.

Added to my list of Camellias that do not bloom after single digit temperatures is Japonica "Fimbriata." The Southern California Camellia Society Nomenclature book describes this plant as

a sport of "Alba Plena" which is reported to drop unopened buds at temperatures below 25 degrees Fahrenheit. The open blooms of "Fimbriata" turned brown and had to be manually removed after nine-degree temperatures. I do not know why the damaged blooms stayed on the stem when others fell off. I did have a few blooms on Japonica "Dahlohnega" after nine degrees which has a reputation of falling off the stem quickly after opening.

By the time you receive this issue of the *Camellian*, several growers will have already started application of gibberellic acid for fall camellia shows. I am told that the *reticulatas* are difficult to time for the early show dates.

Remember to take pictures at local club events and send to Kenn Campbell for publication in the *Camellian*.



C. japonica 'Dahlohnega' 1986, W. F. Homeyer, Macon, GA



Distinctive Foliage in Camellia Species



The wide variety of camellias makes this plant one of the most diversified ornamental shrubs found throughout the world. With at least two hundred different species, camellias come in many different shapes, forms, and colors, all vying for attention.

But what might not be as noticeable is another characteristic which is equally as diversified among species and individual cultivars, i.e., foliage. Most of the well known members of the Camellia family -- Japonica, Sasanqua, Reticulata, and Sinensis – have basically the same dark, glossy green leaves of a similar ovate shape. Many other species, however, have foliage which is quite different from these. Listed below in alphabetical order (hey, what else could be expected from an old librarian) are a few examples of camellia species with unique foliage found while surfing the ‘net, especially at Eugene Philips’ “Camellia Shop” found at <https://camelliashop.com>.

The huge, lush, textured leaves of *Camellia amplexicaulis* can be as long as eleven inches. The flower buds form a tight, round ball which opens into stunning cherry red flowers with very thick petals. This tropical species from Vietnam must indeed be an astounding plant. Described as being “sensitive to frost,” it probably would be best planted in



Bud of Camellia amplexicaulis



The leaves of Camellia amplexicaulis can be as long as eleven inches.



Intense red spring foliage of Camellia assimilis (above) with small white flower



Camellia cordifolia with narrow grayish green leaves.



Camellia flava has weeping light green foliage and yellow flowers.

a container that could be wheeled into a protected area during some of the bitter cold days experienced in the Gulf South. On the other hand, how it might bear the extreme heat of the Gulf states climate is uncertain. But it is such a handsome and interesting camellia that it may be worth a try.

Perhaps some of the most beautiful foliage found in the camellia family is that of the *Camellia assimilis*. It has a reddish color to the foliage that is even more intense in the spring when the new growth is beginning to flush. Coupled with its small white blooms, what a fantastic effect this foliage would have in a Christmas floral arrangement.

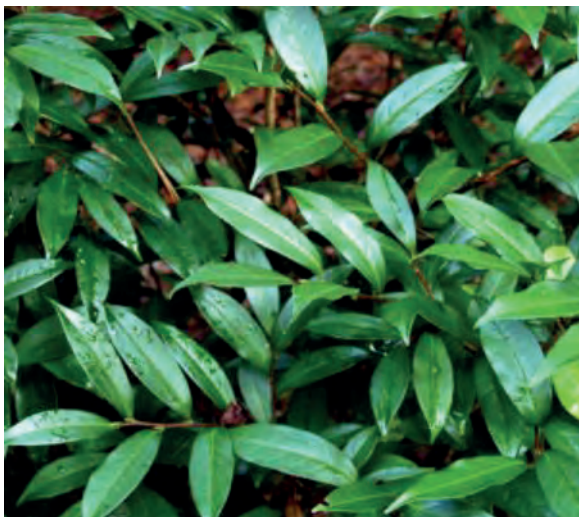
At the other end of the spectrum, is the grayish green color of the unusually narrow shaped leaves of *Camellia cordifolia* whose stems are covered with significantly visible pubescence. With its tiny white flowers, this camellia species makes an interesting landscape plant which tolerates poor growing conditions. A native of southeastern China, *Camellia cordifolia* grows in forests and thickets in mountainous areas. While usually sought after for its beautiful yellow flowers, the foliage of *Camellia flava* is equally as attractive. The foliage of this species tends to have a weeping effect with exquisite, slightly veined, light green leaves.

The dense display of the rich, green, narrow foliage of *Camellia fluvitalis* throughout all seasons of the year is reason enough to place this attractive plant in the landscape. The large number of fragrant flowers that bloom in the fall make it all the more

desirable. A widespread species, it is found growing in northeastern India and China. It has been identified as being potentially useful in plant breeding due to its cold and disease resistant properties. The species is also a source of edible seed oil.

Known for its huge white flowers that cover the plant, *Camellia granthamiana* is an extraordinarily impressive plant. The foliage of *Camellia granthamiana* is extremely unusual. It has heavy veining and pronounced ridges that are very noticeable and showy throughout the entire year. This is a rare, endangered species of Camellia, which was first discovered in the ravine of Tai Mo Shan in Hong Kong in 1955 and was named in honor of the then Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Alexander Grantham. Only one individual of the species was found at that time that it was discovered. Protected under Forestry Regulations, it is threatened by illegal collection from the wild, and by loggers for wood and charcoal. The distribution of the species is limited in both Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Camellia salicifolia can vary with different looks of the foliage within the species. Some foliage can be an ordinary green, while other varieties can have very unique purplish color to it with significant pubescence. Most leaves are willow shaped. The slightly fragrant flowers open in mid-season. The plant tends to produce an open, airy shrub with



Camellia fluvitalis has rich green narrow foliage and fragrant flowers in the fall.



The very large 5" to 6" flowers of *Camellia granthamiana* (above) and the 4 ½" "dark green leathery leaves (below) make this a very unusual





Camellia salicifolia has leaves that vary from grayish green to a purplish color with numerous small pink flowers.



an abundance of flowers which would be well adapted for woodland and other naturalistic sites.

Then, too, some cultivars within a particular species can display different foliage that can be very interesting as well. A *Camellia salunensis* variety has very unique genetic variegation in its foliage. This two-tone leaf color is very attractive in the landscape and would also enhance floral arrangements.

Similarly, some familiar species produce unfamiliar foliage on certain varieties. The *Camellia japonica*, **Francis Eugene Phillips**, can attract much attention with its showy holly-like foliage, while **White Mermaid** has very obvious fish-tail leaves that cover the entire plant, hence the name.

Thus, camellias may be enjoyed and appreciated for more than the blossoms and can bring a diverse variety of plants to the landscape in color, shape, size, and foliage.



A *Camellia salunensis* with variegated foliage,



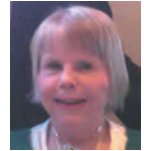
Camellia japonica 'Francis Eugene Phillips' has holly-like foliage.



Camellia japonica 'White Mermaid' has fish-tail leaves.

Notes on the Root Zone of Camellias

By Caroline Dickson, Poplarville, MS



I recently attended the Mississippi Master Gardener conference in the far northeast corner of the state adjoining Alabama and Tennessee. Dr. Jim Lacefield was charged with emphasizing the geology of Tishomingo County, MS as the edge of the continental drift that happened millions of years ago. All the rest of Mississippi was filled in by debris of an ancient sea, wind, and volcanic eruptions including extinct volcanos near Jackson and Yazoo, MS. The soil type varies by the debris filled in between Alabama to the Rocky Mountains.

When I lived in Metairie, LA, I had the common sense to keep my camellias in pots due to the water table being just a few inches below

the surface in a filled area a couple of thousand feet from Lake Pontchartrain with what is called black gumbo clay.

In Poplarville, MS my hilltop area has dense red clay. The area where water lines were installed turned up fine clay equal to pond liner clay. After a few months of watching water puddle on top of the fine clay with no penetration, I relocated two dozen grafted *Camellia Japonicas* and *Sasanquas* to other areas. There was also an area where the landscaper did not detect it as “low” that drowned grafted

Camellias during a period of excess rain and was growing mosquitoes in the first year after planting.

The *sasanqua* root stock used for my grafted camellias in the mid 1990s included some grown from seed which was a common nursery practice. In a container less than three feet tall, the tap root would get to the bottom or side and turn multiple times to form a girdle on the future root zone. Dr. Ackerman has suggested that a taproot potting system of 3 feet depth improves cold tolerance in zones where the soil freezes.



Six foot diameter of root system with one side shorter due to removal by mower.

During March 2000 planting, an attempt was made to loosen the root from nursery pots. The girdled roots were noted to not survive wind of 155 mph from Katrina due to lack of horizontal

growth to anchor the plant in the five years since transplanting. The plants were simply lying sideways with an intact root ball visible. This compares to rootstock that held in the ground with the graft breaking loose that had no tap root, only horizontal roots with a six to eight feet radius and 4 inches deep, probably grown from cuttings.

Camellias require good drainage. “Plant high” has been practiced. Soil can vary even within a few feet. The simplest preplanning step is to dig the hole half the depth of the root ball, keeping the soil



Late removal of lower limbs without scar healing by callus formation.



C. japonica 'Simeon' 1949, by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Clower, Gulfport, MS (photo Dwyer)

taken out. Watch the hole for water accumulation on a hill or near a water source. Next fill the hole with water to see if it drains. If either test fails, chose a different location or construct a two-foot-high raised bed. Beware of adding excess organic matter which degrades in a short time in a humid climate. The volume loss will cause the plant to sink.

My current problem with raised beds is that a 27 horsepower zero turn commercial lawn mower is vacuuming and physically moving the soil and mulch exposing the roots of my camellias. What I see as pine straw mulch, the grass cutter sees as old debris that should be cleaned.

The trenches dug years ago around the beds have lost definition. To reinstall now would still cut roots of camellias. I am in a race to get a mulch barrier of chipped wood that the lawn person will recognize and stay away from the root zone.

Time and a base of hard red clay has taken a toll on *Camellia Japonica* 'Simeon.' This plant got its new life as an air layer from the original plant in the Clower Garden in Gulfport, Ms. It was removed, potted, and tied to a chain link fence for stability. After three years, it was planted in a "raised" bed with 50% organic matter as a mound. Mulch was added each year. Summer 2017 had excessive rain. The organic material in the bed was consumed by soil organisms and natural deterioration with loss of height. I was surprised that the root system was entirely at the surface by Spring 2018. Pruning of base limbs changed the diameter of the canopy to root zone relationship.

I have not applied any herbicide sprays near the camellias. The risk of the spray landing on the exposed roots is a real threat of killing the camellia.



Sasanquas for Early Blooming

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA

Sasanquas provide color in the Fall before most of the japonicas and reticulats get started good. They also avoid petal blight by blooming early. Until recently they were largely ignored due to limited availability of desirable cultivars.

In an article about sasanquas in the 1947 ACS Yearbook, Sigmund Katz of Covington, Louisiana, wrote: "We have collected

sasanquas in our garden for the past ten years, and I am sorry to report that thus far we have not been able to find more than thirty varieties worthy of further propagation."

And later he stated, "Probably the most beautiful of the sasanquas that I have ever seen is one I acquired from E. A. McIlhenny, Avery Island, Louisiana, under the names Hinode-gumo and Shishi-fukujin."

Some of the varieties available to Mr. Katz at that time were 'Setsugekka' late 1800s from Japan, 'Showa-no-sakae' 1935 McIlhenny, 'Maiden's Bkush' 1909 imported by K. Sawada, 'Cleopatra' 1929 imported by K. Sawada, 'Kenkyo' 1898 from Japan, 'Fuji-nomine' old Japanese variety, 'Hinode-gumo' 1936 from Japan, 'Mine-no-yuki' and 'Daydream.'



C. sasanqua 'Cleopatra' imported by K. Swada from Japan in 1929.



C. sasanqua 'Hinode-gumo' 1936 from Japan.



C. sasanqua 'Kenkyo' 1898 from Japan.



C. sasanqua 'Setsugekka' 1800s from Japan.



C. sasanqua 'Maiden's Blush' imported by K. Sawada from Japan in 1909.



C. sasanqua 'Mine-no-yuki' (Snow on the Mountain) 1891 Japan.

Fortunately for us the hybridizers and seed collectors have been busy and we now have around 300 varieties to choose from. Far more than the thirty that Mr. Katz found.

Here are a few of them so keep an eye out for them at your favorite Nursery.



C. sasanqua 'Alabama Beauty'



C. sasanqua 'Autumn Sentinel'



C. sasanqua 'Falling Star' 2005
Gordy, FL



C. sasanqua 'Miss Ed' 1954 Mrs T.
K. McKnight, Baton Rouge, LA



C. sasanqua 'Nanette' 1980
Mrs. L. V. Teeter, Ft. Valley, GA



C. sasanqua 'Navajo' 1956
Nuccio's, Altadena, CA



C. sasanqua 'Moon Shadow'



C. sasanqua 'Silver Dollar' 1987
Nuccio's, Altadena, CA



C. sasanqua 'Sparlling Burgundy'
Rene Casaband, Abita Springs, LA



C. sasanqua 'Sarrel' 1998
Bobby Green, AL



C. sasanqua 'Stephanie Golden'
1998 Dodd, Marshalville, GA



C. sasanqua 'Strawberry Limeade'
202 Glen Read, Lucedale, MS



C. sasanqua 'Bonanza' 1962,
Tom Dodd, Semmes, AL



C. sasanqua 'Pink Butterfly'



C. sasanqua 'Jean May' 1954 Ralph May,
Fernandina, FL



C. sasanqua 'Yuletide' 1963 Nuccio's, Altadena, CA
Seedling of *c. sasanqua* 'Hiryu.'



Pink Snow



C. sasanqua 'Pink Snow' 1951,
Paul Hines, Beaumont, TX
It is a seedling of 'Mine-no-yuki.'

Most sasanquas are profuse bloomers, like the 'Pink Snow' above. Plant them together in groups of three to five or more plants. The

scene above is part of a mixture of about ten 'Pink Snow' and Mine-no-yuki' Plant in full sunlight, in a part of the garden that is in

view from your favorite chair. When in full bloom, they will give you a spectacular display.



C. japonica 'Campbellii' Comes to the USA

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA

About ten years ago, while browsing the internet, I found a copy of *The Floraculture Cabinet and Florists Magazine* vol.3, 1835. On page 118 was a list of eight camellias introduced by Walter Frederick Campbell, MP of Woodhall (near Glasgow, Scotland) and his gardener, Mr. Walter Henderson. I was aware that camellias were grown in Scotland, but not aware that any cultivars had been developed there.

Among the cultivars listed was one named 'Campbellii.' Described in the *Floraculture Cabinet...* as a seedling from Middlemist's Blush having flowers that "are very large, of a fine white, striped and spotted pale red."

Naturally the name intrigued me and I began trying to learn if it still existed. There are several different cultivars with the name *Campbellii*, one being 'Campbellii (L)' on *McIlhenny's List of Camellias for sale 1935*. It is described as red or rose pink, full peony form with stamen showing among the center petals. Not the real 'Campbellii.'

Another is 'Campbellii (Guichard)' described as a red double or semi-double. *The ICS Register* says it is not related to the valid 'Campbellii,' however, it looks very much like 'Middlemist's Blush,' so it may very well be a "throwback" to its parent or possibly a sport.

Walter Campbell's estate of Woodhall no longer exists, but his estate on the island of Islay is still there and occupied. I asked my friend Duncan Beaton to check there in case he had planted some camellias there, but the gardeners said no camellias



C. jap. 'Campbellii' 1835 by Walter F. Campbell, Woodhall, Lanarkshire, Scotland. A seedling of 'Middlemist's Blush'



C. jap. 'Middlemist's Blush' (Middlemist's Red) from China to Kew Gardens in 1804.



C. jap. 'Campbellii (Guichard)' 1894 by Guichard, France



Lara Savoli, Verbania, Italy



C. jap. 'Campbellii' 1835 by Walter F. Campbell in Lara Savoli's greenhouse in Italy.

were known to grow there. He also checked several nurseries in the area with no success. Florence Crowder was also looking for it on her many trips to Europe. I had about given up ever finding it.

Then this past February at a grafting session of the BRCS, Florence came in and presented me with several scions of Walter Campbell's 'Campbellii.' I was so happy that I almost cried. She had found the plant at a large wholesale nursery, Savioli F.lli, in Verbania in north central Italy operated by Lara Savioli. I grafted two for myself and several more were grafted for the Historical Camellia Garden at the LSU Burden Center.

As you will notice in the photo, it does not look exactly like the original engraving of 'Campbellii' from the *Floracultural Cabinet*. This could be a cultural or climate variation, another sport, or one of the many other varieties in Europe called 'Campbellii.' Maybe we can tell more when it finally blooms. It could be that the original 'Campbellii' was a prolific sporter like 'Betty Sheffield' and all the various 'Campbellii' are descendants. Regardless it is a pretty flower and I can't wait to see it bloom.



C. jap. 'Campbellii' grafts doing nicely in June 2018

Other Camellias by Walter Fredrick Campbell

Following are some of the other camellia hybrids introduced by Walter Campbell. We will keep looking and maybe some day we will find more of them.



Walter Frederick Campbell



Hendersonii



Heteropetala alba



Julianii



Heteropetala rubra



Carswelliana



*Officers of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society at the annual Luncheon at Hemingbough.
L. To r. Charlie Johnson, VP; Lynn Vicknair, Treas.; Kay Clark, Secty. and Mike Ruth, Pres.*



The old cutting benches of the BRCS were made from scrap lumber and after many years use were no longer servicable, so Art Hoover and Charlie Johnson are building a new one out of treated lumber. Almost finished, it just needs it's shade cloth cover. It will have a leaf valve to turn the water to the mist heads on and off. When the leaf dries off, it opens the valve and when it gets wet, it closes the valve.

AROUND THE



C. hybrid 'Wendzalea' blooming in late July in Dick Hooton's Garden. It is a cross of c. jap. 'Wendy' and c. azalea.



The camellia warrior tending to his plants.

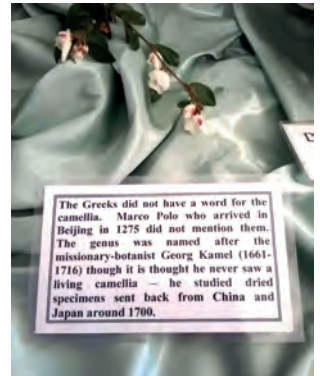


Camellia japonica 'Okan'



Joe Holmes, ACS director at large, standing next to several camellias in the full sun trial garden of camellia japonicas at the ACS board meeting at Masee Lane in June.

GULF COAST



The Greeks did not have a word for the camellia. Marco Polo who arrived in Beijing in 1275 did not mention them. The genus was named after the missionary-botanist Georg Kamel (1661-1716) though it is thought he never saw a living camellia - he studied dried specimens sent back from China and Japan around 1700.



Hooton's plant of c. hybrid 'Jinhua's Jade Tray' is loaded with buds and he looks forward to a fine display. This large to very large flower was introduced by John Wang, San Francisco, CA. It's possible parents are c. x williamsii x a fragrant cultivar.



Camellia Spiralis Rubra

From *The Horticulturist, and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste*, Vol. 5: Devoted to Horticulture, Landscape Gardening, Rural Architecture, Botany. January to December, 1855 by P. Barry, A. J. Downing, J. Jay Smith, Peter B. Mead, F. W. Woodward, Henry T. Williams.

We present for a frontispiece this month a remarkable Camellia raised by the late Noel J. Becar, in his day one of the first Camellia amateurs in the country. This is the Camellia which Mr. Becar first dedicated to A. J. Downing; but this name was subsequently given to another seedling, of which we also have a plate. The flower now presented has never been named, but by some has been vulgarly called the 'Screw' a name more expressive than elegant. We now give it the name of *Spiralis rubra*. The form, as now given, is constant, and not a mere variation. It will be noticed that the spirals are remarkably symmetrical, and we have never seen them otherwise. The color and substance are unexceptionable, and the habit good; and among those who admire a departure from ordinary forms, it will become a popular plant. Our drawing was taken from a plant grown by Mr. Humphreys, of Brooklyn, who has the original stock.



Camellia Spiralis Rubra



CELEBRATING GCCS in FLORIDA

October in northwest Florida is a beautiful month—not too cold, not too hot. The Pensacola Camellia Club is excited at the prospect of welcoming GCCS to Pensacola—Oct 15 and Oct 16. We have great things on our agenda, from our speaker, Brie Arthur, to our luscious dinners especially planned with you all in mind! Paul Bruno at VPaul's Italian Ristorante will put on a show for you. Ellen Vinson and Bobby van Duesen are singing just for you. AND Dr. Mack Thetford will talk about Ph for an afternoon session—wowowow. Our downtown has been named one of the most walkable and exciting downtowns in the nation. If you have not done so, please make your hotel reservations quickly and send Treasurer Mike Ruth a check. Kickoff the season with gusto—you'll be glad you did!



Camellia azalea

Camellia azalea is restricted to a small mountainous area in Guangdong Province, China. It is an evergreen shrub or small tree, growing up to 4 metres tall with long and narrow, dark-green leaves. It has bright red flowers and the petals are slightly notched at the tip. There are some superficial floral and foliar similarities to certain azaleas.

potentially valuable economic species with breeders interested in using the species to generate hybrids that bloom almost continuously. See 'Wendzalea' on page 16.

Native to a warm, moist environment preliminary tests have shown it can survive at -5°C , and could be a useful ornamental shrub for landscapes and gardens.

The wild population of this endemic species appears to be in decline, there are around 1000 mature individuals, with no seedlings and few young plants evident, and although the species flowers abundantly, it has a low rate of fruit or seed production. One of the threats to this species is from illegal collection as demand is high due to its horticultural value while supply is small. Propagation techniques have been developed in private nurseries and through this 10,000 grafted plants have been purchased by the local nature reserve and distributed among local people in an attempt to reduce illegal collection.



Camellia azalea

The species has an unusually long flowering period, from mid-May until February, this, along with its large flowers and evergreen foliage, make it of high horticultural interest. Although not yet commonly grown, *Camellia azalea* is a





What Are Grits?

By Bob Stroud, Slidell, LA

Nobody knows. Some folks believe grits are grown on bushes and are harvested by midgets by shaking the bushes after spreading sheets around them. Many people feel that grits are made from ground up bits of white com. These are obviously lies spread by communists and terrorists. Nothing as good as grits can be made from com. The most recent research suggests that the mysterious manna that God rained down upon the Israelites during their time in the Sinai Desert was most likely grits. Critics disagree, stating that there is no record of biscuits, butter, salt, and red eye gravy raining down from the sky, and that God would not punish his people by forcing them to eat grits without these key ingredients.

How Grits are Formed

Grits are formed deep underground under intense heat and pressure. It takes over 1000 years to form a single grit. Most of the world's grit mines are in South Carolina, and are guarded day and night by armed guards and pit bull dogs. Harvesting the grit is a dangerous occupation, and many grit miners lose their lives each year so that grits can continue to be served morning after morning for breakfast (not that having grits for lunch and dinner is out of the question).

Yankees have attempted to create synthetic grits. They call it Cream of Wheat. As far as we can tell, the key ingredients of Cream of Wheat are Elmer's Glue and shredded Styrofoam. These synthetic grits have also been shown to cause nausea.

Historical Grits

As we mentioned earlier, the first known mention of grits was by the ancient Israelites in the Sinai Desert. After that, grits were not heard from for another 1000 years. Experts feel that grits were used during this time only during secret religious ceremonies, and were kept from the public due to their rarity.

The 10 Commandments of Grits

- I Thou shalt not put syrup on thy Grits
- II Thou shalt not eat thy Grits With a spoon or knife
- III Thou shalt not eat Cream of Wheat and call it Grits, for this is blasphemy.
- IV Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's Grits.
- V Thou shalt use only salt, butter, and red-eye gravy as toppings for thy Grits.
- VI Thou shalt not eat Instant Grits.
- VII Thou shalt not put ketchup on thy Grits.
- VIII Thou shalt not put margarine on thy Grits.
- IX Thou shalt not eat toast with thy Grits, only biscuits made from scratch.
- X Thou shalt eat grits on the Sabbath for this is manna from heaven.

How to Cook Grits

For one serving of Grits: Boil 1.5 cups of water with salt and a little butter. (Use milk and they are creamier!) Add 5 tablespoons of grits. Reduce to a simmer and allow the grits to soak up all the water. When a pencil stuck into the grits stands

alone, It is done. That's all there is to cooking grits.

How to Make Red Eye Gravy

Fry salt cured country ham in cast iron pan. Remove the ham when done and add coffee to the gravy and simmer for several minutes. Great on grits and biscuits.

How to Eat Grits

Immediately after removing your grits from the stove top, add a generous portion of butter or red eye gravy. (WARNING: Do NOT use low-fat butter.) The butter should cause the grits to turn a wondrous shade of yellow. (Hold a banana or a yellow rain slicker next to your grits; if the colors match, you have the correct amount of butter.)

In lieu of butter, pour a generous helping of red eye gravy on your grits. Be sure to pour enough to have some left for sopping up with your biscuits. Never, ever substitute canned or store bought biscuits for the real thing because they cause cancer and rotten teeth.

Next, add salt. (NOTICE: The correct ratio of Grit to Salt is 10:1 Therefore for every 10 grits, you should have 1 grain of salt.)

Now begin eating your grits. Always use a fork, never a spoon, to eat grits. Your grits should be thick enough so they do not run through the tines of the fork.

The correct beverage to serve with grits is black coffee. (DO NOT use cream or, heaven forbid, skim milk.)

Your grits should never be eaten in a bowl because Yankees will think it is Cream of Wheat.

Ways to Eat Leftover Grits

(Leftover grits are extremely rare.) Spread them in the bottom of a casserole dish. Cover and place them in the

refrigerator overnight. The grits will congeal into a gelatinous mass. Next morning, slice the grits into squares and fry them in 1/2" of cooking oil and butter until they turn a golden brown. Many people are tempted to pour syrup onto grits served this way. This is, of course, unacceptable.

IRISH BLESSING BEFORE EATING GRITS

May the lord bless these grits.

May no Yankee ever get the recipe.

May I eat grits every day while living,

And may I die while eating grits.

AMEN

[Editors Note: For many years, Yankees gagged at the thought of eating grits. But then, shortly after this article first appeared, a very hungry snowbird slipped into Shorty's Grill just before closing time for a bite. He was told that all they had left was grits. Being desperate, he ordered a plate of grits and red eye gravy and, viola, he discovered it was a delicious repast.

He told a couple of his snowbird friends about it and they sneaked off to Shorty's the next day for a taste. They all agreed that it was a wonderful dish, but they could never admit that they loved GRITS.

So, to save face, they concocted a scheme whereby Yankees could eat grits and feel no shame. They made up an "old Italian delicacy" and called it "Polenta" and coerced some Yankee grits maker to put the name on their packages.

So the next time you are shopping for grits, don't buy anything with the name "polenta" on it and maybe we can force the manufacturers to remove the name "polenta." The Yankees will stop eating them, thereby preserving the worlds dwindling supply for a more enlightened population.]

[This article first appeared in the Summer 2008 issue of the Camellian.]



Minutes of GCCS Board Meeting

Sunday, October 15, 2017

By Rebecca Christian, Secretary

The meeting announcement was published by e-mail on August 24, 2017, with agenda items deadline for additions as October 1, 2017. The Bylaws Order of business was sent by e-mail September 8, 2017 ahead of the impact of Hurricane Irma with three brief grant proposals. A list of cell phone numbers for attendees who may be need alternate voice connection was published by email October 4, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm in the conference room of LSU Burden Center in Baton Rouge, LA by President Caroline Dickson. A quorum was determined to be present. Board members attending included Caroline Dickson, Dennis Hart, Mike Ruth, Rebecca Christian, Al Baugh, Carol Comber, Mark Crawford, Jim Campbell, Jim Dwyer, Robert Stroud. GCCS members attending included Nick Piazza and Bette Hooton.

Introduction of new members and guests: Treasurer, Mike Ruth reported that no new members were signed up during registration for the October 2017 annual meeting. Guests included ACS President Jim Dickson, A C S Executive Director Celeste Richard.

The Board was welcomed to Baton Rouge by Caroline Dickson on behalf of the local host club.

Reading and approval of previous minutes: Minutes of the October 2016 Board meeting were sent by email to participants resulting in four drafts. Draft four was accepted. A motion to accept draft four and dispense with reading was made by Jim Dwyer and seconded by Mark Crawford. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes of the October 2016 GCCS Board minutes are published in the Camellian.

Minutes of the May 24, 2017 By-laws and Constitution review were previously sent by e-mail. Rebecca Christian read the minutes. All proposed changes to the By-Laws failed due to lack of a second. Mike Ruth made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Bob Stroud with a unanimous acceptance by

board members vote. The 1994 constitution and 2012 By laws revision were published in the Camellian.

Minutes of the general membership meeting in October 2016 had been sent by e-mail and copies were available for review. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jim Campbell with a second by Bob Stroud and unanimous vote by members.

Report of the Secretary: Report by the Secretary Rebecca Christian was no new communications to share. Report of the Treasurer: Report of the Treasurer, Mike Ruth, was presented in written format of tables. A written Treasurer's report to members is published in the Camellian at regular intervals.

GCCS Meetings for the last four years have resulted in profits from auctions. The Camellian printing cost has averaged around \$5,200 which was paid from the checking account. The 2016 grants of \$6000 were paid from the Charles Schwab investment account.

Jim Campbell stated he understood that as much money as we want could be spent as long as the corpus of the fund is not spent. Mike Ruth has researched the corpus question. The Camellian volume 29 number 1 page 21 published as Summer 2002 provides a corpus value of \$16,288 collected over ten years as pledges, donations, and memorials. Subsequent financial reports do not use the word corpus. Over the last few years, money received into the checking account as dues, donations, registration, and auction proceeds have been used to pay printing and meeting expenses without frequent funds transfer between checking and investing accounts.

Bob Stroud announced that he will step back from the Finance Committee chair effective January 2018 to be an advisor. Mike Ruth has been added to the Charles Schwab account as the GCCS representative and finance chair. The Oct. 13, 2017 meeting held with Charles Schwab Investments was attended by C. Dickson, M. Ruth and R. Stroud with a recommendation of disbursements from the investment account to be 3.5% of value

annually received from our advisor. Mike Ruth signed a notarized document disclaiming political activity as a requirement for a nonprofit account.

Deceased members over recent years include Darlyn Little, John Richbourg, David Nihart, Wilbur Rumph, Marie Mizell, Max Mizell, Bob Christian, Elaine Smelley, Gabriel Olsen, Will Mangham, Lois Boudreaux, Nell Eubanks. Rosemary Davis and Annabel Fetterman have requested to be dropped from GCCS rolls. Vernon Howell, nursery owner, has died.

Committee Repots:

Finance: Copies of the current September 2017 monthly statement were distributed by Bob Stroud.

An open discussion period allowed members to voice financial concerns like discussion of taking money out of a high market.

Registration fees have not covered meeting costs the last few years, with final cost covered by the plant auction.

Should money be marked for meeting expenses in Pensacola? The middle Georgia show conflicts with GCCS meetings scheduled in mid-October and football schedules conflict for Saturday events which cuts attendance. Al Baugh requested official financial intervention for Pensacola. Mike Ruth stated \$100 or less per meal as a guide and promised ease of access to checking funds for facility deposits. Jim Campbell noted a speaker fee may be covered. As a reference, the last paid speaker expense was \$2000.

Can the *Camellian* be printed in a size that saves money and postage? Celeste noted that an 8 by 10 inch size would double expenses.

No motions for exact payments or distributions each year were made at the end of the discussion. Art Landry filed U.S. Federal e postcard 990 through 2016 and will continue for future requirements. Art Landry filed 2016 La. Secretary of State documents and will continue for the future.

GCCS is 501c (3) non-profit per U.S. Federal Government Tax guidelines for

receiving donations. GCCS must pay state sales tax on goods purchased for annual meetings and other expenses.

Nominating Committee: 2018 officer elections will be for two-year terms. All officers are up for election including state representatives. Two term limits have not been practiced with state representatives in place eight years. New faces and ideas are needed. Rebecca Christian is chair for nominations. Jim Dwyer as immediate past President will leave the Board. Caroline Dickson as current President will move to a two-year term on the Board to end in 2020.

Annual 2018 Meeting in Pensacola: 2018 October GCCS meeting will be planned by Bette Hooton to be held in Pensacola, Fla. Monday and Tuesday October 15 & 16 with Sole inn as headquarters. Tours on your own on Monday. Palafox House will be site for education sessions and meals. All activities are walking distance. Speakers are being invited.

2019 Meeting Site: open

Communications: Facebook site by Ann Ruth cost nothing. 50 to 100 views and comments are average each month. Bette Hooton was invited to be active to promote the 2018 meeting.

Web site by Homer Richardson no report. Old pictures need update. Mike Ruth invited members interested to be new web master. Currently we are only active as Facebook and in print in the *Camellian*.

Research: Caroline presented report of North Carolina research project. Early chromosome reports had different numbers so graduate student must be very accurate with location of specimens. The study uses flow cytometry to study the camellia genome. A request for article for publication in the *Camellian* should be done. Jim Dwyer made a motion for a publishable report for future grants. There was no second.

The Constitution and Bylaws revision 2012 were published in the Fall 2017 *Camellian*.

Old Business: None

General Interest Announcements: Mark Crawford announced that a study of the tea plant proposed by MSU had been denied.

New Business: ACS Executive Director, Celeste Richard, reported completion of the hog fence around the garden. New plant tags about camellia care are available for plant sales by local clubs. Many judges certificates are expiring in 2018. Texas needs a judge school. January 2018 ACS meeting in Covington. Gift shop renovation is completed at ACS. Embroidery items and donated camellia craft items are requested. Many old pine trees have fallen at Massey Lane during hurricane Irma and are scheduled to be removed. Individual donations are always welcomed at ACS.

Motion Agenda for Grants: \$2,000 to American Camellia Society done annually since 2003 for unrestricted use. Motion by Caroline Dickson with second by Jim Campbell, passed unanimously.

\$2000 to North Carolina State University chromosome research of camellia genome renewal. Motion by Caroline Dickson with second by Jim Campbell, passed unanimously.

\$2000 to Preservation of antique camellias by Baton Rouge Camellia society to include collection of plant material for propagation in Baton Rouge and Massey Lane for one year. Motion by Mark Crawford with second by Al Baugh, passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Al Baugh with second by Dennis Hart, passed unanimously.

General Membership Meeting

Monday October 16, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the conference room of the LSU Burden Center in Baton Rouge, LA. by President Caroline Dickson. Board members and committee members were present. A quorum of members was determined to be present. A duplicate presentation of all information from the October 15, 2017 GCCS Board meeting was completed. Members voted

unanimously to accept minutes, reports, and grant proposals.

Additional information: Dick Hooton moved that it be read into the minutes the Board's appreciation of the effort and time that Bob Stroud has donated to GCCS over a number of years through his management of the investment fund. Caroline Dickson seconded the motion.

Finance: Dick Hooton moved to have a four person investment committee of GCCS members working with Mike Ruth, Chair of investments. Vicki Baugh seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote by members present. As a point of understanding: Mike will form the committee. People he appoints will continue serving through 2018. The question of term lengths will be addressed by the 2018 Board.

2018 Nominating Committee: Rebecca Christian requested the help of two additional people to serve on the committee. Dick Hooton made the motion to have a three-person nominating committee with a second by Caroline Dickson. Rebecca will appoint the two other members of the nominating committee.

Communications: Kenn Campbell invited members to contribute to articles in the Camellian. A request for a volunteer to be the new web master was made.

ACS report: Celeste Richard, Executive Director, discussed the July 2017 changes to Camellia Show Rules and Regulations. Stronger training requirements for novice judges have been included. Standards for consistency have been strengthened. A number of clubs are holding judging schools to highlight changes. She stated that the upcoming ACS 2018 convention in Covington, LA is to be held Jan. 5, 2018 in conjunction with the Northshore Camellia Society Annual Camellia Show. She briefly mentioned the 2018 International Camellia Society Congress to be held in Nantes, France, March 25, 2018.



The Gulf Coast Camellian Endowment Fund

At the annual meeting in Mobile, September 18, 1993 the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society approved a fund raising campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to fund an Endowment Fund to help support our publication, the CAMELLIAN, and other educational activities. Only income from the Fund is used for annual operating expenses. We are a tax exempt organization under IRS section 501(c)3 and your contributions are tax deductible. The Fund helps us to produce and distribute the CAMELLIAN and still keep the dues very low.

Our membership has been very supportive of our Fund and it had grown enough by 2008 that we could produce the Camellian in full color. This made a huge difference in the appearance of our magazine. The cost of printing, paper and postage continues to rise, so it is important that we continue to grow the fund to keep up with the rising costs.

Contributions to the GCCS Endowment Fund can be made to Treasurer Mike Ruth at any time during the year. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to the following donors to Camellian Fund for 2017 -2018:

Ronald Benko
Joan Blanchard
Alfred Breeland
Leo Broders
Rose Anne Brodie
Leo Brown
Tim Brown
Allen Bush

Kenn & Ruby Campbell
Rebecca Christian
Vincent Ciolino
Kay & Ken Clark
Caroline Dickson
Bob Dillemoth
Martina Ellis
R&S Frank
Hurley & Carolyn Griffing
Harold & Caryl Hall
Dennis Hart
Margaret Hawkins
Pat & Connie Hegwood
Joe & Laura Holmes
Arthur & Eva Hoover
Susan Hultgren
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Joseph & Hilma Jenus
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Brenda Litchfield
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David & Alethea O'Quinn
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Peter & Lynnette Soules
Hal Vanis
F. Norman Vickers
Lynn Vicknair
Roger&Ellen Vinson
Jimmy Walker
Donna Welch
Alice Witcher



In the Autumn Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA



There are many chores that need to be done in the Autumn camellia garden, so don't wait too long to get started.

❑ **Disbudding:** Continue disbudding to encourage larger blooms and healthier plants. Remove all buds other than terminal buds and reduce multiple terminal buds to one. This will result in a plant with about one-third of the original buds remaining. You will be rewarded with larger flowers and fewer partially opened or deformed blooms. Also fewer spent blooms to be picked up later in the season.

❑ **Gibbing:** Gib a few buds every week to get earlier and larger blooms. Gibbing is best done from September through December. Allow 60 days from gibbing to blooming if you are timing your blooms for a show.

❑ **Watering:** Autumn usually brings our driest months, so a good soaking of the plants each week without a good rain is needed (more often for container grown plants). Don't over water by watering too often. Camellia plants like to dry out between soakings. If a hard freeze is predicted, make sure your plants are well watered before the freeze. Well watered plants are more resistant to cold damage.

❑ **Spraying:** Fall spraying for scale and spider mites can be done now that the really hot weather has been replaced by milder weather. Use oil emulsion spray, like ultra-fine oil, and cover leaves well, especially the undersides. A follow up spraying should be done in a couple of

weeks for severely infested plants. Neem Oil is also very effective as a preventive spray. It makes the plant unappealing to insects and they will starve to death rather than eat the plant. Neem Oil is an active ingredient in "Triple Action" spray by Fertilome, which also contains a miticide and a fungicide. As with all oil sprays, use in mild weather to avoid damage to the leaves. Always use as directed by the manufacturer.

❑ **Mulching:** Add 2" to 3" of mulch on top of the old mulch when the leaves and pine straw start falling. Chop the leaves with a lawnmower to keep them from matting. Cover them with pine straw to hold them in place and for appearance. Some of the benefits include moisture retention, weed control, soil conditioning and cooling of the soil.

❑ **Planting:** Prepare places now for those grafts and cutting you have been growing in pots for a couple of years. Dig a wide hole no deeper than half the root ball. Mix in some bark, sand and compost or other humus with the removed soil. Put the soil mixture back in the hole and allow it to blend and age for at least a month before planting your new plant. When ready to plant, do not plant too deep. Plant with 4" to 6" of the root ball above the ground line, then build up to the top of the root ball with the soil mix. If you have heavy clay soil or poor drainage, it would be wise to build up the planting area a couple of feet with silt or topsoil to provide adequate drainage for the root ball.



Camellia Quiz

How well do you know these doctors? Answers on page 28.



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

Editor's Notes

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



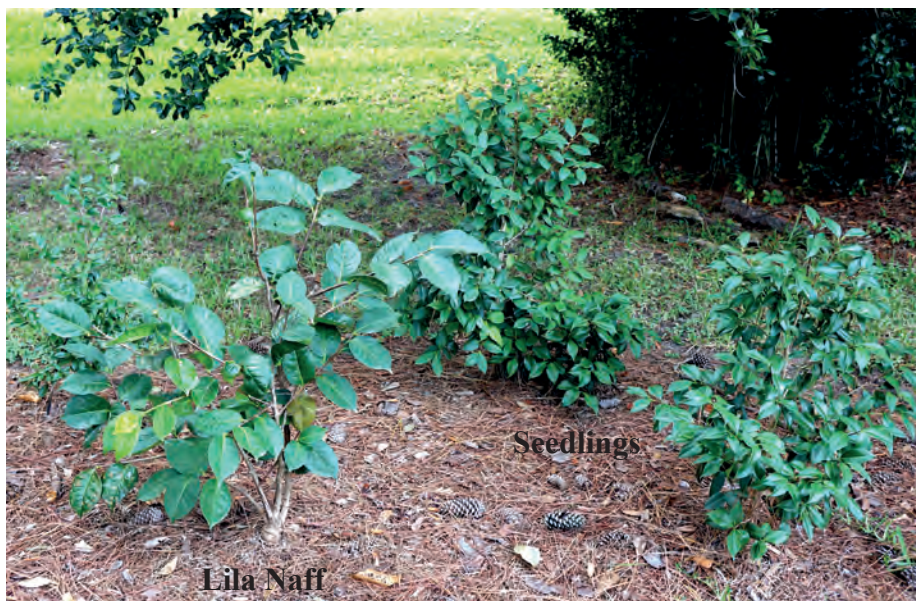
In the Autumn 2017 issue, I told you about my experiment to grow understock in place from seed to take advantage of the tap root's ability to penetrate a one to two foot layer of fat clay deposited on top of the top soil. The nearest hose bib is over 400' away so the plants are on their own.

A 42 day long dry spell this Spring with a total of only .60 inches of scattered showers provided a good test for my experiment. The seedlings grew nicely during this period, and the 'Lila Naff' grafted in 2016 is healthy and has put on a few bloom buds. Several other seedlings are now large enough to graft.

So I can recommend this method if you have a problem spot and a lot of patience.



C. reticulata 'Lila Naff' 1967, Tammia Nursery, Slidell, LA



Camellia Quiz Answers

1. 'Dr. Clifford Parks' 1997, Parks, CA
2. 'Dr. Cy Echols' 1986, Gilley, FL
3. 'Dr. Frank Wilson' 2013 Smith, GA
4. 'Dr. Lilyan Hanchey' 1976, Stone, LA
5. 'Dr. Tinsley' 1949, Mrs. Tinsley, LA
6. 'Dr. John D. Bell' 1950, Wilkinson, FL

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.gulfcoastcamelliasociety.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.pensacolacamellioclub.com

Valdosta Camellia Society
www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/assets/pdf/Valdosta%20Newsletters%20-%20202013-2014.pdf (Awe heck - just google it)

Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Invitation to Join



C. japonica 'Sarah Lee Cannon' 1997
by M. S. Cannon, Covington, LA



C. reticulata 'Ali Hunt' 2013 by Hulyn Smith,
Valdosta, GA



C. japonica 'Elizath Dowd Mistique' 2013 by
James and Elaine Smelley, Moss Point, MS



C. japonica 'Don Mac' 1956 by Sylvia Donahoo,
Pensacola, 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 Michael Ruth, 726 High Plains Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society

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Committee	James Dwyer, Mobile, AL

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C. japonica 'Storm' 1950, Rosa Camellia Gardens, Tallahassee, FL