

March/April, 2014

VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

The cool spring has extended the camellia season well into late March with buds continuing to open. I visited Masee Lane on March 27th and it was beautiful. If you grafted plants in January and February you should begin to see growth soon with April 15 being the time when things should begin to happen with your grafts – good or bad. You still have time to prune your plants if needed and don't forget to fertilize too. The plants and flower size will improve with some fertilizer. It is also time to remove all the unopened buds and do general cleanup of your plants so they look good for the summer.

We had a workday at the Episcopal Church in early March and got a few more camellias planted thanks to the pre-dug holes from the previous workday. We also pruned several camellias where the sasanqua rootstock had taken over the grafted variety. We have received funds from 3 Florida Camellia clubs to purchase a bench for the garden. This is just another way so many people have expressed their support for the Huly and Janet Smith Memorial Garden.

We can plan another workday in April at our upcoming meeting before the weather gets hot to prune more camellias taken over by sasanquas. Our final meeting of the season will be a picnic at Camzalea hosted by Sandra and Fred Jones on Saturday April 5. Those of you that attended last year know this is a real treat. Look forward to seeing you on Saturday.

Mark

Next Club Meeting

**Saturday
April 5th**

11:00 AM

**Camzalea
Boston, GA**

**Please RSVP
(see invite
below)**



END OF YEAR PICNIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2014

AT CAMZALEA

"A GARDEN OF CAMELLIAS AND AZALEAS"



**4773 Dixie-Barwick Road
Boston, GA**

RSVP: sandrayjones@windstream.net

or

229-941-5774 (leave message if necessary)

**Come at 11:00 for a stroll through the gardens
followed by a fried chicken lunch at 12:00.**

Chicken and beverages will be provided.

**Club members please bring a dish — salad,
vegetable, or desert.**

Directions:

Take US highway 84 west from Quitman to Dixie. Turn right at the John Deere dealership and travel 4.8 miles north on Dixie-Barwick road. Dogwoods and sasanquas are on the left at 4773. You have arrived.

“OLDIES BUT GOODIES”

By J. D. Thomerson

When I travel and visit my good friend Randolph Maphis I always take the back roads from Valdosta to Tallahassee instead of the Interstate and enjoy listening to a radio station that plays the music I enjoyed back in the 1970’s – the “Oldies but Goodies” as many folks say. Riding in the car by myself I beat my hands on the steering wheel like I am the drummer in the band and even sing out loud every now and then. I would not dare do this if anyone else was in the car.



One of many old groups I like

I really enjoy these oldies much more than the newer music my teenage daughter likes. Yes, I know, that is a sign of getting old – and yes, my parents did not like the music I listened to when I was young and I thought my parents music must have come from the 1800’s or earlier. Anyway, these old tunes help me remember many good old times I had when I was younger and they just put a smile on my face. And, to be honest, I think they are just better than much of the newer music (sorry Katie – I know you disagree.)



OK Katie, I am showing a photo of a modern day band that I am pretty sure you like—Bruno Mars and his band.

I can actually understand most of the words to these old songs and some of them actually make a little sense. I must admit however that I would be embarrassed if my daughter listened and understood some of the messages in some of my favorites – but, I don’t have to worry about that because she will not listen to them.

On one trip to see Randolph I got to thinking that camellias are somewhat like the music I was rocking out

to while driving. There are lots of camellias that are “Oldies but Goodies.” New seedling introductions often get lots of attention and praise and many are worthy of the praise -- but many others well, they really are not as good as their parents and grandparents in my opinion. I think our society sometimes feels that newer is always better and I don’t always buy that argument.



I guess it does not help that I just love old things. Kay and I bought a 1920’s built home because we loved the character of the old house and we filled it up with even older antique furniture that each of our parents and grandparents passed down to us.

When I turned sixteen in 1980 (I guess you can do the math to know how old I am) I did not want a new car like all my friends -- I wanted an old collector’s car of some kind. I was thrilled one day soon after getting my driver license to see an old 1965 Ford Thunderbird sitting out in front of the old Langdale Ford dealership in downtown Valdosta with a for sale sign on the windshield. The next day I owned that car and I kept it for the next 20 years.



I often wish I still had this old car

Thank goodness two of my best friends worked at a paint and body shop and my Sunday school teacher owned the body shop. I worked and worked on that car and I must say that it was pretty sharp – I sure was proud of it and I would not have traded it for any brand new model – remember, the cars of the 1980’s were not known for style or being very cool looking.

Well, back to camellias. This past November I was asked to give a presentation at the Tallahassee Camellia Society. Knowing what great camellia growers lived in Tallahassee I decided to bring about 30 nice camellia blooms I had at the time to show them that us Valdosta folks can hang with the big boys.

Most of blooms were from varieties that were fairly new and common but I had a couple blooms that I had air layered from some old camellia gardens around Valdosta. One of the blooms on one of these old air layered plants in particular was outstanding and drew the most attention. I did not know what it was and most of

the others folks attending did not either. It was a very large pink peony to anemone form and was just perfect. Randolph Maphis studied the bloom and declared “oh, that is Tiffany” and after looking it up in the nomenclature book and looking at photos online I agree.



Photo of Tiffany - Registered in 1962

Now, Tiffany, having been registered in 1962 is not really that old – especially considering it is almost the same age as me but it definitely does not get the attention it once received. Back in the 60’s and 70’s and 80’s it was consistently one of the top award winners. I have seen many award winners

at recent camellia shows that were not as nice as this old Tiffany bloom (too bad there was not a show that day.)

There are many other older camellia varieties that don’t get the respect that they once received but are still great camellias. The photo gallery that follows will highlight some of my favorites. Now, I am not talking about antique or heirloom camellias that are 100 years old or older (I am going to write a future article about antique camellias so I am not including them.) Most of the camellia varieties I want to spotlight are like the music I like to listened to when traveling the back roads to Tallahassee -- they are “Oldies but Goodies” registered during the 1950’s and 1960’s.

Pretend that you are traveling to a camellia show in Tallahassee, FL or a location closer to your home the morning of Feb. 10, 1974 (can you believe that was over 40 years ago) and you are listening to music from the ’60 and ’70’s. Between enjoying the beat of songs like “Sweet Home Alabama” (yes Katie, I liked an old band called “Lynyrd Skynyrd” when I was your age) or whatever “Oldies but Goodies” you liked way back then also pretend you are looking forward to seeing the amazing blooms that will be on display. I bet you would get to see several of the varieties below winning awards.



The Lynyrd Skynyrd Band

Disclaimer #1: I limited the blooms to only those introduced before 1965 (since we are pretending it is 1974 that would give time for all of these varieties to be showing up at local camellia shows in 1974) and fifty years ago is a nice cut off point.

Disclaimer #2: I intentionally am leaving off the really old varieties considered antique because I plan to write a future article about them – therefore the varieties I spotlight below are pretty much some really good ones registered from around 1949 to 1965.

OK – here goes. Enjoy the photo’s below:

THIRTY “OLDIES BUT GOODIES” REGISTERED FROM 1949—1965

(These would be Some of the Big Winners at a 1974 Camellia Show)



Betty Sheffield Supreme
Registered 1960



Don Mac
Registered 1956



Dixie Knight Supreme
Registered 1955



Guilio Nuccio Var
Registered 1956



Elegans Supreme
Registered 1960



Carter Sunburst
Registered 1959



Maroon & Gold
Registered 1961



Magic City
Registered 1965



Lady Kay
Registered 1949



Margaret Davis
Registered 1961



Julie
Registered 1961



Kramer's Supreme
Registered 1957



Avery Island
Registered 1951



Mark Allen Var
Registered 1958



Miss Charleston Var
Registered 1961



Rebel Yell
Registered 1961



Sea Foam
Registered 1959



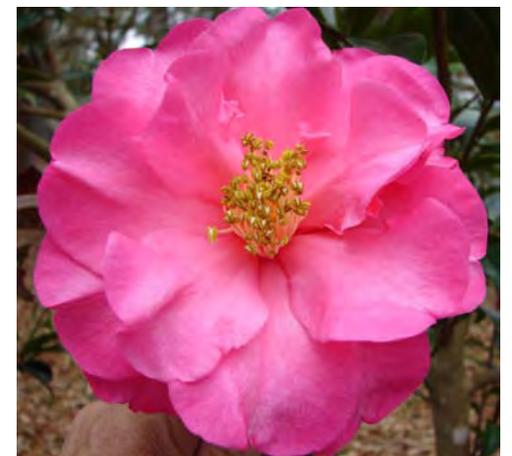
Tomorrow Park Hill
Registered 1964



Mrs. D. W. Davis
Registered 1954



Rena Swick Var
Registered 1960



Valley Knudsen
Registered 1958



Elsie Jury
Registered 1964



R. L. Wheeler Var
Registered 1949



Vulcan Var
Registered 1958



Grand Slam Var
Registered 1962



Sawada's Dream
Registered 1958



Francie L.
Registered 1964



Julia France
Registered 1958



Mercury Supreme
Registered 1961



China Doll
Registered 1958

Join the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club Today

- ❖ Informative meetings – Camellias and much more!
- ❖ Share your gardening ideas and expertise with other members
- ❖ Group events

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month from September through March in Valdosta at the Crescent. Call Mark Crawford at 229-460-5922 for more information.

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Joint membership

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Gardening Interests:

Mail to:

Sandra Seago

Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club

1802 N. Oak St..

Valdosta, GA 31602

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!

(please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

Crescent Garden Center, 904 North Patterson St., Valdosta, GA

February, 2014

VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

A Message From Our President—Mark Crawford

The cold weather is finally beginning to subside and the camellias are putting on their show. The cold blast in January killed buds on some *reticulata* varieties, however, Frank Houser is just about in full bloom in my yard. Flower buds of Clifford Parks, Queen Bee, Lady Pamela and several others survived the cold and will be blooming soon. At our last meeting we had a grafting lesson so you can grow these great varieties that are best grown when grafted.

This season, greenhouse flowers have dominated the camellia shows and without these growers many shows would have been cancelled. The Quitman show was spectacular and I hope some of you made it. The next and last show in the region is at the ACS Headquarters in Fort Valley, GA on Feb. 22.

This year the Valdosta Tree Commission will be honoring Hulyn Smith with the Legacy Award for his work with camellias. Typically this award is given to people that have a direct contribution to tree planting and landscaping in Valdosta. This Friday, February 21 is Arbor Day for Georgia where the Valdosta Tree Commission will recognize Hulyn for his work with camellias. In addition, the Episcopal Church where the garden is being restored will be given the Landscape Award. This event will be on the VSU campus lawn between the library and the Fine Arts Building at 10 AM. I hope that all of you that are able to attend will be there to represent our club.

You also need to think about fertilizing your plants at the end of the month or in early March. Do any pruning you want done starting now through mid-March.

We will have a representative from the Georgia Olive Organization as our guest speaker for our February meeting. As you know olives are a new crop for Georgia started in Lakeland.

Look forward to seeing you at the Crescent for another great meal and fellowship.

Next Club Meeting

February 25th

6:30 PM

Crescent
Valdosta, GA

INVITE A
FRIEND!!

Massee Lane Gardens
Camellia Show

Fort Valley, GA
February 22 & 23

Last Area Show of
the Season

Minutes of the January 2014 Meeting of the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club

The weather was nasty but fifteen brave souls were in attendance for the January 2014 Club Meeting held on Tuesday, Jan. 28th, at the Crescent in Valdosta, GA. Several members brought very nice blooms to show off and as always the food and fellowship was wonderful.

Mark Crawford began the meeting by discussing the positive results of the Valdosta Camellia Show that was held on December 6 & 7, 2013. Also, he discussed the club's successful work day and planting of new camellias at the "Sara Oliver Camellia Garden" which is being Dedicated to the Memory of Hulyn and Janet Smith. He discussed the need for future work days as we get ready to show off this garden at the National Camellia Convention being held in Tallahassee next January.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the Quitman Camellia Show that was held on Saturday, Feb. 1 & 2. Also, several club members made plans to car pool to ACS Headquarters at Massee Lane Gardens on Wednesday, February 5th where Mark Crawford was one of the speakers. Leon Meeks shared that Hulyn Smith will be honored by the Valdosta Tree Commission with the Legacy Award for his work with camellias (see Mark's message above for more details about this.)

The program for the evening was a hands-on camellia grafting demonstration. After Mark gave the demonstration everyone in attendance got to graft their own camellia with Mark, J. D., and Leon helping the best they could. It was a fun learning experience for everyone and hopefully we made several successful grafts.

The next club meeting will be held at the Crescent on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m.

CAMELLIAS AS LANDSCAPE PLANTS

The Beginner's Collection

By J. D. Thomerson

I have discussed with many fellow camellian's that landscape companies seldom use camellias anymore. We have speculated on the reasons: camellias are more expensive than other plants, they grow more slowly, they are more prone to die the first year or two than many other plants, and many that have beautiful blooms are not vigorous pretty bushes when not in bloom. There are other reasons given but these are some of the ones I remember. Camellia show nuts like many of us sometimes care more about a pretty bloom than a pretty bush the many months it is not in bloom. However, this is not the case for the avid landscape



Seldom do you see beautiful camellias like this photo in newer subdivisions — what a shame.

owner that wants a beautiful yard 12 months of the year. I have thought for several years that perhaps we camellian's could promote perhaps a "bullet-proof" starter package for the average home owner that wants to add a few camellias to their landscape.

The list might be slightly different for the southeast compared to the west coast or folks further north that are limited to cold hardy selections. I will be brave and pick a starter package for folks in the southeast that want plants that are tough as nails, have pretty blooms, but also look good all year long.

OK—Here's My Beginners Package

1 Everyone needs a nice sasanqua and what is better than **KANJIRO** to meet this need. There is a reason it is used as rootstock for difficult to grow camellias – it is tough as nails and grows great. Often overlooked, is that it has loads of very pretty dark pink blooms early in the fall before cold damage



is a threat. Also, Kanjiro grows very fast (for instant satisfaction) and the bush (more of a tree in this case) looks great year round.



2 A large dark red is always popular. My wife has seen all kinds of beautiful blooms from Huly'n's old greenhouses and camellia shows in Valdosta and other places but she without question will tell you that **ROYAL VELVET** is her favorite –

and, to be honest, I can't argue with her. Royal Velvet is just a special bloom. It is dark red with a velvety texture and bright gold stamens. It has abundant blooms and the bush is a strong grower with nice foliage and structure. I agree with Kay, Royal Velvet is hard to beat.

3 This choice might be controversial but I am going to put one reticulata in the beginner's package. Reticulata's are (in my opinion) more difficult to grow especially outdoors than japonicas and sasanquas and many are (to be honest) ugly looking bushes. There is an exception and that is **FRANK**



HOUSER. For me, it has been the best growing reticulata I have planted in my yard – I cannot say that the bush is just beautiful but it is not bad looking. The reason I must include Frank Houser is that it just has an amazing bloom – and lots of them. Frank Houser or Frank Houser Var either one is great but since the starter package already has a beautiful red in Royal Velvet I am selecting Frank Houser Var as the choice for the beginner's package. Once a homeowner sees a Frank Houser Var bloom in their yard I bet they will be hooked on camellias as well as all their neighbors.

4 Everyone wants a white bloom. I will be honest, white is not my favorite (OK, please don't shoot me) but I realize I am in a minority with this view. Old timers always used Alba Plena as the choice for a white – but, I don't consider it a very strong grower and nursery folks tell me it is hard to root and that it does not grow fast. I am willing to



defer to others on what would be the best white for a beginner's package – but, since I am writing this article I guess I should pick one. Ok, my choice is **SEAFOAM**. Remember, it needs to grow fast and easy, look good as a bush, and have a pretty bloom – I think Seafoam with

its perfect white formal double bloom meets these standards.

5 What about pink – my goodness, there are hundreds to pick from. In my area older gardens are full of three pink varieties: Debutante, Pink Perfection, and Lady Claire. Nothing is wrong with these but I think we can do better and be more unique. I am going to pick a fairly new variety named **EARLY AUTUMN**. The Gordy's registered this one and they only register varieties that grow and look great in the yard – and this definitely is true of Early Autumn. A big bonus is that Early Autumn, just like the name implies, blooms in early autumn. It blooms early, profusely, and over an extended time. It is a perfect pink formal double of medium size. The bush could be used for landscape purposes even if it never bloomed.



If you like dark red flowers then you need a Georgia Fire.

7 Have you ever noticed that when non-camellian's look at a nice camellia flower they always want to take a sniff of it – then, look just a bit disappointed that they smell nothing. Well, this will not be the case with **HIGH FRAGRANCE**. Jerry Conrad and many others have told me that High Fragrance has more smell than any other variety. I usually can't smell any of the



so-called fragrant camellias (I guess my smeller is bad) but even I can smell a High Fragrance bloom. What's more, a bush in the yard with just a couple of blooms can be smelled (or "smelt" as my wife say's and I always kid her for saying) from several feet away. To further endorse High Fragrance it has a very pretty medium sized peony bloom of ivory pink with deeper pink shading at the edge. Folks in many parts of the world use High Fragrance for rootstock so that shows that it is a very tough and fast grower.

8-9 Most people really like variegated blooms so we need one or two in the beginner's package. Two names come to my mind for great growing nice looking dependable variegated varieties: #8 **TERRY GILLEY VAR** (top right) and #9 **RENA SWICK VAR** (bottom left)



However, when looking up award winners in the ACS Journals I notice that these two win very few awards. But, remember that we are talking about great yard bushes and flowers that will reward normal homeowners not people that typically enter camellias in a show. I have about 200 camellias planted in my yard and I only have duplicates of about eight. Two of the varieties I have two of are Terry Gilley Var and Rena Swick Var – so, this might tell you how impressed I am with these two as great yard plants.

10 Everyone needs a **TAMA** (photo below is of Tama Electra) and there are many to choose from. There is Tama Americana, Tama Beauty, Tama Glitters, Tama Electra, Tama Vino, Tama Bambino (yes, a miniature) and several others. The Tama's began in 1947 when an unknown seedling was discovered in a charcoal pit in Japan – it was named Tama-No-Ura because that was the name of the town where it was found. Since then, many other Tama's have been introduced. All Tama's are unique having bright red petals with a white band around the petal edges. Also, Tama's are excellent growing plants and produce many seeds that produce interesting seedlings. I don't think I can single out one Tama variety as the



best – they are all good. If you want things that are different and unique then you want at least one Tama.

11 Ok, we need a blush pink, or a white fading to pink, or a white washed with pink, or some other similar description for our beginner's package. Nuccio's Nursery introduced two good candidates with Nuccio's Jewell and Nuccio's Pearl. Older varieties such as China Doll, Erin Farmer, and Omega are also excellent candidates as well and there are many others. I could not decide so I did a google search of all of the above and decided I liked **NUCCIO'S JEWEL** the best. I have this one in my yard and while it has not grown real fast it has always looked nice. I even was successful with an air-layer on a Nuccio's Jewel so that also increases my faith that it would be a good choice for a beginner.



12 What about a miniature. Hulyn Smith, my camellia mentor, would give me "Heck" (well, he would actually be more specific than that) for choosing a miniature but many people really like them. And, in fact, I am quickly learning to appreciate the miniatures. As landscape plants, and that's the title of this article, miniatures actually make a big statement in the yard. Miniatures typically are just loaded with blooms and most have smaller more pleasing foliage. First, let me warn you that many of the miniatures you typically see winning awards at camellia shows are not the best for landscape purposes. The varieties Tinsie, Lipstick, Fircone, Night Rider, and other miniature varieties that win big at the shows are beautiful but probably best left for the advanced camellia



grower. Miniatures that I am talking about for the landscape must be much easier to grow and keep happy. Here are some miniature varieties that I think are good landscape candidates: Cinnamon Cindy, Fragrant Joy, Fragrant Fairies, Fragrant Pink, Hallstone Spicey, and Spring Festival. These will all put on a mass blooming show much later than the sasanqua varieties. All of the above are non-retic hybrids and if you look at the names closely you will see that most are also fragrant. I am by no means an expert on which of these are the best but I have recently planted a Spring Festival, Hallstone Spicey, and a Cinnamon Cindy in my yard – and, I am very pleased so far – I will flip a coin and pick **CINNAMON CINDY** for this category.

13 Well, some people think the number 13 is bad luck so let's say this is a "Baker's Dozen" instead. I had planned to stop at twelve but having just experienced some bitterly cold weather I am inclined to pick a cold hardy variety. **CRIMSON CANDLES** is my choice. Crimson Candles is actually a reticulata hybrid but it does not look, grow, or act like the typical reticulata. It resembles a sasanqua that blooms with thousands of dark pink single blooms. However, it blooms in the middle of the winter and is extremely cold hardy. In fact, it blooms up in areas that get plenty of ice and snow and does not seem to be bothered by this weather. There are many photos on the web showing Crimson Candle blooms covered in snow and looking beautiful. Even if cold hardiness is not a concern you will be very pleased with Crimson Candles – it is a great landscape camellia.



Notice the Snow on the open Crimson Candles bloom

OK, that's a baker's dozen and that is enough for a beginner's package. I am sure others could list many other fine camellias that would be great for landscape purposes and for the beginner – there are thousands of camellia varieties you know – but I will submit these as my recommendations. Wouldn't it be nice to see new homes being landscaped with camellias instead of the same old plants one home after another. Wouldn't it be nice to see Camellia Collections or Series at nurseries and garden centers like we typically see Encore Azaleas and KnockOut Roses? Well, why can't there be? Camellias are definitely worthy of such respect and years ago they were prized as the kings and queens of the landscape. Perhaps, if we "camellians" would agree upon and promote a bullet-proof camellia "Beginner's Collection" for landscape purposes this vision will come true.

Where Can I Buy The Beginner's Collection?

County Line Nursery

Bryon, GA

<http://www.countylinenursery.com>

Loch Laurel Nursery

Valdosta, GA

<http://www.lochlaurelnursery.com>

CamelliaShop

Savannah, GA

<http://www.camelliashop.com>

Richbourg Nursery

Monticello, FL

<http://www.camelliaplant.com>

FROSTED CAMELLIA'S Oh My!

During the 1970's and 80's when Frank Pursel, from Oakland, CA, was hybridizing hundreds of Reticulata varieties he decided he wanted to try and breed reticulata camellias for fragrance. He began crossing the Reticulata varieties with Lutchuensis and Saluenensis varieties (both known for being fragrant.) He stated that his efforts to introduce fragrance into the Reticulata's was a complete failure. However, many of these crosses did possess amazing blooms (Pat Pinkerton, Jim Pinkerton, Pearl Buck, Dr. Dave, Tommy Land, and others) and he discovered something new – **FROSTING**. Fellow hybridizers such as Walter Homeyer, Marvin Jernigan, Jack Mandarich, and others also discovered Frosting when their retic hybrids began to bloom. The FROSTED camellia bloom was born and it has become a very desired feature of many of the new Reticulata hybrid introductions. Enjoy the ones shown below.



Dr. Dan Nathan Sup.



Mandy Smith



Lee Roy Smith



Pearl Buck (Lost)



HS #13



Grandandy



Walter Homeyer



Marilyn Maphis



Miles Beach



Beth Dean



**Mandy Smith &
Marilyn Maphis**



Miao Jie



Seng Jie



Randolph Maphis



Tony Pinherio



Raspberry Glow



Victoria Whiddon



Ruth Jernigan

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- ❖ Share your gardening ideas and expertise with other members
- ❖ Group events

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month from September through March in Valdosta at the Crescent. Call Mark Crawford at 229-460-5922 for more information.

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Joint membership

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Gardening Interests:

Mail to:

Sandra Seago

Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club

1802 N. Oak St..

Valdosta, GA 31602

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!

(please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

Crescent Garden Center, 904 North Patterson St., Valdosta, GA

January, 2014

VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

A Message From Our President — Mark Crawford

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and you are ready for another new year. Can you believe it is 2014. The years march by and our camellias get better every year except when Mother Nature throws us an arctic blast like we had two weeks ago. We were off to a great season with many camellias in full bloom or about to open. Any buds showing color were killed or severely injured. Only tight buds will open but probably with reduced size. Late varieties are probably OK.

We had another beautiful show in December with 908 blooms on display. Thanks to all that helped put on this event – it is definitely a group effort. Our work day at the Hulyn and Janet Smith Garden in November also went very well. I had hoped for another day in December but everyone has busy lives during the holiday season. We need to schedule another day to do more planting and cleanup. Our target date to have the garden dedicated is January, 2015 – that's only one year from now. We will discuss this at our next club meeting.

Our first meeting of 2014 is Tuesday, Jan. 28 at the Crescent at 6:30 p.m. After our meal we will have a program. Bring food, a friend, and blooms to the meeting.

November Club Meeting

Tuesday,
January 28

6:30 PM

Crescent
Valdosta, GA

**BRING A
COVERED DISH
AND A FRIEND**

Photos from the Work Day held at the Sara Oliver Camellia Garden which is dedicated in Memory of Hulyn and Janet Smith — The photo's in the middle are of Hulyn's & Janet's Family



Camellia Lingo 101 and the Plain Talk Camellia Encyclopedia

By: J. D. Thomerson

My good friend Mark Crawford, owner of Loch Laurel Nursery, is a plant pathologist and chemical guru who often speaks in a language I just don't understand. He will sometimes use the scientific name for a plant instead of the common name that I know. When I ask him what chemical I should spray on my plant to kill some type of bug or fungus problem my head begins to spin with all the strange and confusing chemical names he lists. I usually respond by asking him if I can buy the product at Home Depot or Lowes and what is the name brand on the bottle. Usually, he will say "Oh no, homeowners can't buy it – it is \$100 an ounce, but I have some and I will share with you." Or put another way, if I'll help him in his nursery one morning he will put the one or two drops of this magic potion in my two gallon pump up sprayer and it will solve my problem. It is an arrangement that works really well but I do have to stop him occasionally and ask him to speak English. I just don't think I will ever have the "smarts" to learn this scientific lingo like Mark. He often kids me about how I try and pronounce the few chemical names I actually do know.

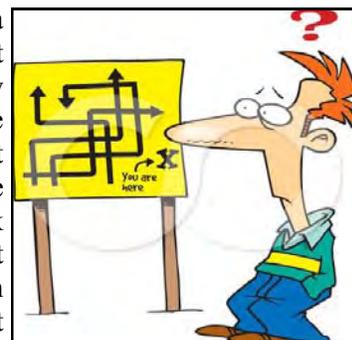


Well, what does this have to do with camellias? I am glad you asked – let me explain. When I first got involved with camellias I was a total beginner that knew little if anything but I was lucky enough to get to hang around camellia experts like Hulyn Smith, Randolph Maphis, and Mark Crawford. Well, believe me I was often lost as could be listening to some of their conversations. Hulyn would say something about a certain camellia bloom being a "Dog's Butt" or the cambium layer on some sasanqua being too small and Mark would talk about a particular Japonica that has twice the number of chromosomes as normal. Randolph would ask Mark if he would get him some gibberellic acid and what fungicide he should use on his scions. They would all fuss about dieback and cankers and Hulyn really hated something called a "Red Spider." I might be remembering some of the above wrong because at the time I did not have a clue what they were even talking about.



What does a dog's butt have to do with camellias?

Have you ever been in a conversation and been so lost that you didn't even know how to ask a question? I am sure you have heard the saying that "It is better to keep quiet and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt." That was my situation early on with camellias and still is somewhat today but Mark and Randolph and others know me well enough now that I just ask questions and don't worry about them thinking I'm a fool. And, believe it or not, I have actually learned enough about camellias the past seven or eight years to actually understand many of these conversations and actually join in on some of them.

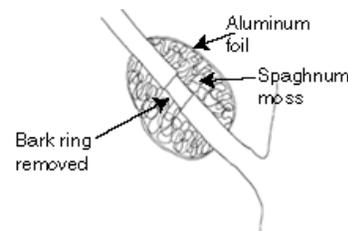


As I have shared before I am a teacher by profession so it is natural for me to want to educate others. So, I want to share all the basic camellia terminology or "lingo" I have learned with those reading this article. I will call this lesson or course "Camellia Lingo 101" and like all good teachers I will give you a test at the end so read and study carefully. I know that many of you already know way more than I do about camellias but hopefully you will enjoy reading this information. Perhaps someone would be willing to write a "Camellia Lingo 102" course for a future article.

OK – Here Goes!

PLEASE NOTE: These are not official definitions -- they come from the "**Thomerson Plain Talk Encyclopedia.**"

Air-Layer: A method of rooting a camellia branch while it is still attached to the living bush. It involves removing about a one inch ring of bark around a branch exposing the cambium layer -- wrapping a tennis ball size amount of damp sphagnum moss around this exposed area and sealing with plastic wrap and/or tin foil. About six months later the exposed area will have formed callus and roots and the branch can be removed and potted up or planted.



A Dog's Butt: An ugly looking camellia bloom.

Callus: Healthy new plant tissue that heals a wound on a camellia branch or scion. Callus is a good thing especially when grafting – it means the callus is joining the scion to the rootstock.

Node: The tiny bud-like growth at the base of the leaf junction with the stem -- sometimes called an “eye.”



Hopefully, someone will develop a cure for Camellia Petal Blight

Petal Blight: Caused by the fungus *Ciborinia camelliae* which is a disease affecting the bloom of the camellia. Symptoms include brown spots on the petals which begin as small brown specks but enlarge rapidly during warm weather periods typically beginning in late December or early January in the southeast. A gray fuzzy growth may be observed at

the base of the flower where it attaches to the stem. Eventually the fungus invades to the flower base where a hard, black structure called a sclerotium forms. It is important to pick up all old camellia blooms because this sclerotium can lie dormant on, or in, the soil for one to five years or more and then become active again and can infect future blooms. Unfortunately there is no cure for petal blight – sanitation of old blooms is the only current advice. Unfortunately, the fungus can travel for up to a mile or more in the air so we need to encourage nearby neighbors to pick up old blooms as well.

Scale: There are many types of scales that infest plants but Tea Scales are the ones that bother the camellia plant the most. Scales typically live on the undersides of leaves and can often be noticed by white specs or cottony looking structures. However, since they live on the underside of the leaf they often go unnoticed until you see a yellow splotching on the upper leaf surfaces caused by the sucking insects underneath. The whole plant may appear unhealthy, and the leaves drop prematurely. Scales seem to occur in shady moist locations especially on branches close to the ground. Pruning lower branches and thinning out the middle of the plant helps prevent scale. A good covering of the undersides of infected leaves with an Ultra-Fine or Summer Oil spray smothers the scale and is the typical recommended cure and prevention.



Ultra-Fine Oil sprayed on the undersides of leaves will control scale

Spider Mite: A tiny little bug that is not really a spider and can't be seen by my poor old eyes but it sucks the plant juices out of a camellia leaf making them look dull and bronzy looking. They typically live on the underside of the leaf and



Spider mites cause leaves to turn an ugly bronze color — smother and kill them with Ultra-Fine Oil

attacks during hot dry weather when their populations can grow by the millions within just a few days. Spider mites seem to attack plants located in sunnier and dry locations and for some reasons certain varieties get them more than others. Repeated sprays of Ultra-Fine/Summer Oil prevents and kills the various life cycle stages of this nasty little pest. They do make miticide pesticide but this kills off the good bugs that eat the spider mites as well as the mites so in the long run you might not be gaining an advantage.

Rootstock: A plant, sometimes just a stump, which already has an established, healthy root system, onto which a cutting (scion) from another plant is grafted. Typically plants that are strong growers but have inferior flowers are used for rootstocks so the healthy root system can then support a pretty bloom. Many people use various sasanquas as rootstocks as they are less prone to root rot. A very vigorous japonica variety named Kumagai Nagoya is currently all the rave for using as rootstock.

Grafting: A method of joining a scion of a special, rare, or hard to root/grow camellia variety to a vigorous growing rootstock variety so the scion variety has better and/or faster growth.

Cleft Graft: A method of grafting in which the entire top of a rootstock plant is cut off about 3 or 4 inches above the soil line (I call this chopping off the rootstocks head.) Then about a one inch slit is made right down the middle center of the trunk of the rootstock so that a scion can be placed in the slit in the stock or stump in such a manner that its bark evenly joins that of the stock. The cleft graft is the most common method of grafting camellias in the southeast.



A cleft graft with two scions

Scion: A camellia cutting typically of two to six leaves and at least one growth bud (or eye) that is used to insert into another camellia plant by one of several grafting methods. There are several beautiful camellia varieties, such as Ville de Nantes, that just do not grow on their own roots very well and do best if a scion is grafted onto a vigorous rootstock.



Approach Graft: A method of grafting that does not require the top of the rootstock plant to be chopped off until the union of the desired plant has callused with the rootstock. An approach graft is made by scrapping off a 1 or 2 inch section of bark on both the rootstock plant and a branch of the desired variety and then matching these two exposed areas together and taping up securely for about six months. After the two varieties have callused together the top of the rootstock plant can be chopped off and you have a successful graft. A big advantage of this method is that the rootstock does not have to have its head chopped off until you know a successful union has taken place. This ensures that they rootstock does not die during the grafting process. Also, the desired new variety that is being grafted on the rootstock does not have to be cut either (it keeps its roots until the union is made.) The approach graft typically has a very high success rate but it does take longer than the cleft graft. However, it is nice to know that even if the graft is not successful both the rootstock and desired variety will still be alive growing on their own roots. A limitation of the approach graft is if the two plants are not in pots you have to get a potted variety of one of the two and place next to a planted variety of the other.

Graft Chimera: In a few rare occasions when grafting the rootstock and scion variety combine together when callusing at the junction of the scion and rootstock and contains tissues of both plants. The new growing plant is neither the rootstock nor the scion variety but actually an entirely new plant with characteristics of both. The variety Helen Bower is a popular chimera variety that was formed when Dr. J. V. Knapp was grafted on a Mathotiana Variegated rootstock.

Massee Lane: The headquarters of the American Camellia Society located in Fort Valley, GA (see photo below.) They are open to the public to tour the camellia gardens as well as the location of the offices that operate the ACS.



ACS: American Camellia Society

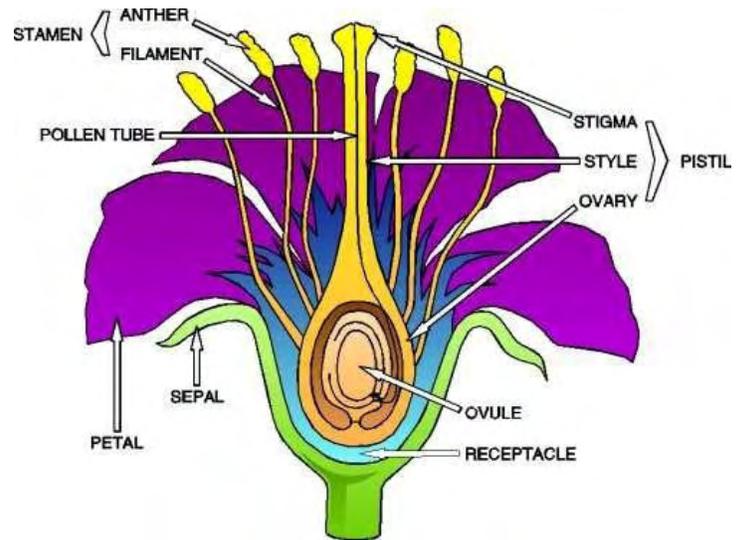
Hen Do/Pig Do/Man Do: Natural fertilizers as a result of Chicken, Pig, or Human waste (as the case may be.)

Emasculate: To remove unopened camellia petals and stamens/anthers so the pollen of a different variety can be placed on the pistil of a bloom to make sure the plant is pollinated by the hybridizer's choice. Side note: as a man this just sounds horrible.

Cambium: The dark green layer of plant tissue right below the bark where most of the plant nutrients and water flow and new plant tissue is developed.

Pith: The center area of the branch (typically white in color.)

Stamen, Anther, Filament, Pistil, ect.: All very important male and female parts of a camellia bloom (see photo below.) Understanding the roles of each of these flower parts is vital in hybridizing camellias.



Hybridizing: Crossing the pollen of one variety to the pistil of another variety to create a new seed variety.

Gibberellic Acid: A chemical that can be applied adjacent to a camellia bloom bud by twisting out either a nearby leaf bud or flower bud and putting one small drop of chemical in the small created cavity.

Sasanqua – A fall mass blooming camellia variety that is best suited as a landscape variety. Flowers are typically much smaller than reticulata and most japonica blooms but is just loaded with blooms. Blooms typically only last a day or two and shatter and fall to the ground making a carpet of petals.

Reticulata: These are typically the big huge ruffled petal varieties that are grown mainly by serious camellia growers and normally only seen at camellia shows. Most reticulata varieties (in my opinion) are ugly bushes but have incredible looking blooms. They are harder to grow (they often are attacked by dieback) than japonica or sasanquas. Some

reticulata varieties are quite cold sensitive and need to be grown in a greenhouse while others do quite well outdoors.

Japonica: The most common and recognized species of camellia. The Japonica camellias typically bloom naturally from December thru February in the Southeast and have bloom sizes ranging from miniature 2.5 inches or smaller up to 6 inches or larger. Japonicas have all kinds of various colors and/or variegation and come in several different shapes and forms.

Die Back/Cankers: A fungus called *Glomerella cingulate* that grows well where weather conditions are hot and humid as typical in the southeast. Symptoms of the disease are seen as cankers (sunken spots on the stem that looks like the outer bark has been scraped off). The first plant symptom usually observed is wilting and death of small, current season twigs. Reticulata varieties seem to be most susceptible to this fungus. If cankers form on the main trunk of the plant, this disease may eventually cause the death of the entire plant



Dieback is hard to control but various fungicides definitely help.

Nomenclature Book: A listing of all the registered camellia varieties with bloom descriptions, sizes, seed and pollen parents if known, originator's name, and other info about the bloom. It is published every few years by the Southern California Camellia Society and is used as the official guidebook for Camellia Shows.

Mutant/Sport: Is a branch that has a different bloom or leaf characteristics from the rest of the plant. A sport and a mutant are the same thing. If the sport stays true (keeps the same characteristics) for several years and is desirable it can be propagated and named and registered as a new variety.

Sphagnum Moss: A type of unmilled, long-strand peat moss that is typically used when making camellia air layers. This



type of sphagnum moss looks much like the southern Spanish moss found growing in trees. It is what is often found as a growing medium for orchids. Do not use the decayed peat moss product that is used as a soil amendment that is powder like in texture and is sold as a soil amendment when performing air layers.

ACCS: Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

GCCS: Gulf Coast Camellia Society

Placement: An important job on a camellia show day where volunteers place flowers entered by growers on the proper tables so they can be easily viewed and judged.

Clerk: An important job on a camellia show day where volunteers help camellia judges. Clerks move blooms to the contention table and/or head table as requested by the judges; place first, second, and third place ribbons on blooms, and help tabulate votes.



Head Table: The winner's table that displays the blooms that win an award at a camellia show.

Contention Table: Excellent blooms that judges feel merit being carefully considered for awards. A table set up to compare the best of the best and make final decisions for which blooms should win awards and be moved to the Head Table.

Blind Eye: A leaf growth bud that is very small and somewhat hard to see unless you look closely.

Soil PH: Is an indication of the acidity or alkalinity of soil. Camellias thrive with a soil PH that is just slightly on the acidic side of the scale. The scale ranges from 0 to 14, with 7 being neutral. A pH below 7 is acidic and above 7 is alkaline. Camellias like a PH somewhere in the 5.5 to 7.0 range.

Terminal Bud: The tip of a camellia stem containing the top growth bud.



Virus: Is not necessarily a bad thing with camellias. Camellia variegation is caused by several different types of viruses that do not hurt the plant and causes blooms and/or leaves to be splotted white. The virus actually destroys color (in blotches) on either leaves or flowers. Flowers show varying degrees of white, sometimes in beautiful patterns, while leaves show a yellow or white mottling. The virus may be transmitted through cuttings and grafting of non-infected scions onto virus-infected stock. Often this is done intentionally to get variegated blooms. Interesting facts about this camellia virus: the virus is not transmitted through seed; all seedlings are virus-free; once the virus is present in a plant it becomes systemic and may not be removed. There are a few varieties that have a genetic variegation that is not caused by this virus such as Herme and Lady Vansittart.



Notice the many petaloids in the center as well as the unique color of many camellia hybrids.

Petaloid: When the stamens and pistils of the flower are transformed into petals in the center of a camellia bloom and do not look typical.

Non-Retic Hybrid: The cross of two or more camellia species as long as there is no Reticulata parentage in the cross. Many of the non-retic hybrids are known for unique iridescent or glowing colors.

Single: A bloom with one row of not more than eight petals that shows all the stamens in the middle of the bloom.

Semi-Double: A bloom with two or more rows of petals and prominent stamens in the middle.

Peony: A deep rounded bloom full of petals but that shows stamens intermixed between the petals.

Anemone: One or more rows of large outer petals lying flat with the center a mass of intermingled petaloids and stamens.

Rose Form Double: A bloom that resembles the typical rose with many rows of petals but when fully opened does show stamens in the middle.

Formal Double: A bloom full of rows of petals that never open to show any stamens.

Tea Plant: Yes, tea is made from a camellia leaf. Camellia sinensis is the species of plant whose leaves and leaf buds are used to produce the popular beverage.



Camellian: A camellia nut that is addicted to growing camellias.

There you go -- the official “**Thomerson Plain Talk Camellia Dictionary**” is now published. If you were a good student and read all of the opening paragraphs you know that



it is now test time. Oh no, test time! If you're like most students that I teach you are asking, begging, or saying something like: “Do we have to take a test – can't you just give us all 100's – we have been really nice lately”; “Can we take it next Monday so I can study over the weekend”; “Can we take an open book test?”; “If we all promise to

do extra good on our homework can we skip this test?; and I can think of many other similar requests.

Well, considering the fact that growing camellias is supposed to be a fun hobby I guess a test is not a good idea. Also, I would hate for word to spread that folks like Mark Crawford and Jerry Selph failed my test and had to take a remedial course in Camellia Lingo 101.

Minutes of the November/December 2013 Meeting of the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club

The November/December 2013 club meeting was held at the Cotton Corner in downtown Valdosta on Dec. 3 due to the Crescent being unavailable due to holiday festivities. This location was very nice and the Club thanks Clint Beeland for allowing us to use this nice facility. Attendance was approximately 20 people. J. D. Thomerson and Mark Crawford brought several varieties of camellias to display and share with everyone. As always, the food and fellowship was wonderful.

Mark Crawford began the meeting by discussing the upcoming Valdosta Camellia Show that would be held in just three short days. Many details were “ironed out” and various members volunteered for various duties. Mark then gave an update on the successful work day the club had at the Camellia Garden located at the Christ Episcopal Church. Fourteen grafted camellias were planted in the garden and much cleanup work was accomplished. Mark made a motion that the official name of this camellia garden be called the “Sara Oliver Camellia Garden Dedicated to the Memory of Hulyn and Janet Smith.” Everyone seemed to like this name and it was unanimously approved. This garden will be officially unveiled at next year's National Camellia Convention held in Tallahassee, FL in January, 2015. The club will hold more work days in the future to get the garden ready for this big event.

A Club Field Trip to ACS Headquarters at Masee Lane Gardens in Fort Valley, GA is planned for Wednesday, February 5th. Mark will be speaking in the morning and there are other speakers for the afternoon. Tours of the gardens will be ongoing all day. Mark will discuss this in more detail at the January club meeting.

The speaker for the evening was our own Carol Selph who gave a wonderful talk and hands-on demonstration on how to prepare camellia blooms for entry into a camellia show. Carol discussed and showed everyone several “tricks of the trade” for making blooms look their best — thank you Carol.

The next club meeting will be held at the Crescent on Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Thirty-Three Spectacular Variegated Camellias

Ok Randolph — Here you Go! You have waited patiently for me to spotlight these variegated varieties — so much so that you even sent me the photos to use. Thank you and I hope you and everyone else enjoys them. They truly are spectacular. I don't have the words to describe these blooms so I will just let the photos speak for themselves.



Big Dipper Var



Big Apple Var



Royal Velvet Var



Oscar B. Elmer Var



Halls Pride Var



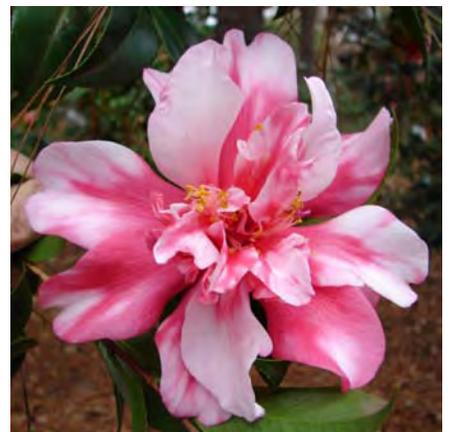
Bill Goertz Var



Helen Beach



Dixie Knight Supreme



Mark Allen Var



Mini Ruth Var



Guilio Nuccio Var



Terrell Weaver Var



Magic City



Bev Piets Smile



Frank Houser Var



Tomorrow Var



Ville De Nantes



Phil Piet Var



Valentine Day Var



Ray Gentry Var



Tudor Baby Var



Amy Conner



Wendy



Paul Haskee Var



Melody Shepard Var



Georgia National Fair



Ruchi Rhodes



Rena Swick Var



Dr. Cy Echols



Katie Northcut



Randolph Maphis Var



Miss Charleston Var



Avery Island

Join the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club Today

- ❖ Informative meetings – Camellias and much more!
- ❖ Share your gardening ideas and expertise with other members
- ❖ Group events

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month from September through March in Valdosta at the Crescent. Call Mark Crawford at 229-460-5922 for more information.

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Joint membership

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Gardening Interests:

Mail to:

Sandra Seago

Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club

1802 N. Oak St..

Valdosta, GA 31602

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!

(please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

Crescent Garden Center, 904 North Patterson St., Valdosta, GA

**NOVEMBER
2014**

VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

We will not be having a meeting in November this year due to the fact that our regular meeting time falls during the week of Thanksgiving when everyone is busy with family. The Crescent is not available to us in December again due to Christmas activities so our meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2nd at Cotton Corner located on the corner of Ashley and Hill Ave. in downtown. You can park along the street or in the Miller Hardware parking lot directly across the street from Cotton Corner. We will have our covered dish meal and a short program. Try to bring a gardening friend too!

We have another workday scheduled for this Saturday, Nov. 22 at the church to get the garden ready to be dedicated on January 29th. We will be helping to finish the paths, pickup sticks and pinecones from the last storm, install irrigation, and maybe some planting. Bring tools like pitch forks, pruners, and the thing to help pick up pinecones without bending over.

December is **"SHOW TIME"** for our club on Saturday, December 6th. This is the 50th year Valdosta has had a show and we want it to be a good one. Your help is needed for any part of the show from setup, clerking, teardown and food prep for lunch, and the judges party on Friday night hosted by Sandra and Gene Seago. All members are invited to the Judges party Friday night.

Now for your camellias, if you gibbed in October, you should begin to have flowers opening. The rain on Monday was a big help to get flowers to open, however, the freeze ruined open flowers and may have damaged swollen buds. It is too soon to know if gibbed buds were damaged and I am sure that tight buds are fine. Please make every effort to enter your flowers as we have several local awards. If you have pine trees now is the time to mulch your camellias with the fresh straw fallen from the trees. This is also the time to plant new camellias or transplants existing plants. You want to get this job done so you have plenty of time for grafting in January and February. Camellia growers do not get a break from gardening in the winter as grafting season is in January and February. Now is the time to make your wish list so you have time to find scions.

If you intend to participate in any part of the ACS National Convention you need to register soon.

See you November 22nd and December 2nd.

Mark

Next Club Meeting

**Tuesday
Dec. 2**

6:30 PM

Cotton Corner

**101 North Ashley
Valdosta, GA**

**BRING A
COVERED DISH
AND A FRIEND**

Next Camellia Show

**Valdosta Camellia
& Garden Club**

**First United
Methodist Church**

**220 N. Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA**

**Saturday
Dec. 6**

**Bloom Entry
7:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Open to Public
Beginning
at 1:00 p.m.**

Another Camellia Work Day Planned

Saturday, November 22 from 9:00 to 12:00

Christ Episcopal Church, 1501 North Patterson St.

(Come Join the Fun — Photo's Below are of the Last Work Day on Nov. 8)



"Don't Neglect The Middle Child"

MEDIUM SIZED JAPONICAS

By J. D. Thomerson

In many families, the first born child tends to get the most attention. Often, the photo album for the first born child is twice as big as the second or third child. I am sure this is not because of the parent's lack of love for the second or third child but simply the fact that with two or more children of different age's lack of time is a serious constraint. Also, it is natural to take more photos of things and events that are new experiences for us and the first child experiences them before little brother and sister. By the time some parents have a third or fourth child they are just trying to survive and hold on to their sanity -- they probably can't even remember where they put the camera.

Likewise, the baby of the family often gets extra attention too. I guess parents realize that after the baby of the family is grown that many wonderful child related experiences and events will not happen again. Well, not until the grandkids come along -- and grandparents get to spoil all their grandkids equally. Everything the baby of the family does is extra special.

The Middle Child

Even though you're not the oldest,
or the youngest, you see,
Being in the middle is a really neat
place to be!

The middle of a sandwich
is the most important part,
And in the middle of your body,
you will find your heart.

The engine in the middle
is what runs a good machine;
And our family wouldn't be the same
without you in between.

the moment he realized he
was now the middle child



Older siblings typically think the youngest of the family gets all the attention. However, the youngest child often thinks just the opposite and thinks the oldest gets all the attention. I remember telling my parents things like "Why does Sharon (my older sister) get to do such and such but I can't." Or, "When Sharon went off to college you bought her a new car but not me -- you are making me buy my own used car." I even recall saying "Sharon gets to do anything she wants but you want let me do anything."

Looking back on the situation now that I have turned the big "Five - 0" I realize that as the baby of my family I actually got treated extra special. I do recall Sharon telling my parents more than once "why do you let him (me) get away with this or that -- if I had of done that you would have grounded me for a month." Or, "My goodness, times sure have changed -- you would have never let me done that or go there." Well, I guess in

MIDDLE CHILD COMPLEX

hindsight both Sharon and I both would say that we both got extra special attention and love.

My family did not have a middle child but I have heard friends who grew up as a middle child say that the oldest and youngest of their families got all the attention and they had to basically entertain themselves. Well, I am sure most middle kids are and were loved equally by their parents but I don't doubt that there is some truth to the fact that many middle kids did have to be a bit more self-reliant. And, in my thinking this is probably a good thing. I am of the opinion that many children in our society are spoiled and grow up thinking the entire world revolves around them -- well, I think many adults think this as well.

Perhaps, the middle child of a family actually has an advantage. They must learn to be more creative, independent, self-motivated, and patient. I am not a child psychologist or anything but I have read articles from those more knowledgeable than I that children who grew up as a middle child often are the most well-rounded and level-headed.

Sorry we can't be with you on Middle Child's Day.



We're having dinner with your brother and sister.

POSITIVE TRAITS OF A MIDDLE CHILD

- ⇒ Independent
- ⇒ Social
- ⇒ Peace Maker
- ⇒ Unafraid of Authority
- ⇒ Strong Negotiator
- ⇒ Generous
- ⇒ Flexible
- ⇒ Easy Going
- ⇒ More Likely to Embrace Change
- ⇒ Concerned About Fairness
- ⇒ Better with Social Intelligence
- ⇒ Open to New Experiences

Well, like most of my articles you are probably thinking what all of this has to do with camellias. Well, I am glad you asked. With camellias, often the most attention goes to the Large and Very Large varieties -- think of these somewhat like the oldest child. Likewise, many camellia hobbyists are really interested in the Miniatures and Small varieties that are so cute and bloom in mass -- think of these in similar fashion to the youngest child. What about the medium sized varieties? I think they sometimes get a bit overlooked -- they are somewhat like the middle child in a family. But, like the middle child, in reality they are some of the best, most creative, and interesting of them all. Also, many medium sized camellia varieties are the best behaved (best growing) and best looking bushes of all the camellias.

I encourage everyone to give the medium sized camellia varieties their proper respect. And, in an attempt to convince you I want to spotlight the following medium sized camellia varieties -- each of the blooms on the following pages are truly great camellias and should never be overlooked. And, to make sure the true medium sized camellia does not have to share the spotlight with a small or large variety sibling I am only including varieties listed in the Nomenclature book as true mediums (not those listed as Small – Medium or Medium – Large.)

MEDIUM SIZED CAMELLIAS

The following photo gallery shows many popular medium sized camellias. Most of the blooms are of the variety Japonica but Joe Nuccio, Raspberry Flambe, Dancing Blaze, Waltz Time Var., Dragon Fireball, and High Fragrance are Non Retic Hybrids. There are not many medium sized Reticulata's but Mary Elizabeth Dowden, Elizabeth B. Hunt, and Lady Ruth Ritter are three excellent ones. Several of the blooms have been introduced very recently such as: Dancing Blaze (2010), Dragon Fireball (2008), Lady Ruth Ritter (2009), Marie Crawford (2010), Walker Lewis (2010), Georgia Fire (2009), Henry Parrish (2007), and Mary Elizabeth Dowden (2006). Herme (1875) and Lady Vansittart (1877) represent two good ones from long ago. Several of the blooms shown were registered by folks living near Valdosta, GA. Hulyn Smith (from Valdosta) registered Henry Parrish, Georgia Fire, Lady Ruth Ritter, and Elizabeth B. Hunt. Ella Joe was registered by Dick Hardison of Tallahassee, FL. Minnie Ruth Var., was one of the many that Paul Gilley of Grand Ridge, FL registered. Pat Johnson of Cairo, GA registered Walker Lewis. Dr. Mervin Wine of Thomasville, GA registered Tar Baby and the variety Marie Crawford was registered by Miss Lillian Gordy of Ocala, FL. Like the previous article stresses, "Don't Neglect the Medium Sized Camellias."



Marie Crawford



Mary Edna Curlee



Nuccio's Jewell



Pink Diddy



Mary Elizabeth Dowden



Walker Lewis



Queen Diana



Tar Baby



Minnie Ruth Var



Georgia Fire



Glen 40 Var



High Fragrance



Helen Beach



Henry Parrish



Herme



Joe Nuccio



Lady Ruth Ritter



Raspberry Flambe



Lady Vansittart



Magic City



Margaret Davis



Anita



Cheeris Jubilee Var



Clown



Waltz Time Var



Dixie Knight Supreme



Dancing Blaze



Dr. Tinsley



Ella Joe



Dragon Fireball



Elizabeth B. Hunt



Elaine's Betty Var



Firedance Var

Minutes of the October 2014 Meeting of the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club

The second club meeting of the year was held at the Crescent in Valdosta on Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. with approximately 22 people in attendance. As always, the food was great and we enjoyed pleasant conversation and looking and talking about the camellia blooms that J. D. and Mark brought for display. Mark began the meeting by discussing the rock and plaque that will go in the Sara Oliver Camellia Garden in Honor of Hulyn and Janet Smith — John and Linda Birch have agreed to purchase these items for the club. J. D. passed out a “rough” draft of the text that will go on the plaque and a big “Thank You” goes to Susan Cowart and Gale Dickert for editing and proofreading the text to make it read much better. Mark discussed plans for the dedication of the garden and suggested the club make Clinton and Jeana Beeland honorary club members — this motion was approved.

Plans for the Dec. 6 Valdosta Camellia Show were also discussed. Gene Seago announced that 34 judges plan to attend and 30 of these judges are from out of town. Therefore, we must make plans to “wine and dine” them at the Friday night Judges Party that will once again be held at the home of Gene and Sandra. Mark asked for volunteers to make up a show committee that will meet to plan the details of the show. The show committee includes Mark, Gene and Sandra Seago, Leon Meeks, Mary McCree, and perhaps others (sorry, I might not have this correct.) Emily Cantonwine agreed to oversee the judges luncheon which is held at the church right after the judging concludes.

Mark discussed the possibility of the club sponsoring a Camellia Photo Contest for children that could be used to try and gain interest and new members for our club. Club members in general liked this idea but there were many details that would have to be ironed out. Gene Seago suggested we study this possibility more and not make any decisions at this meeting. A committee was formed to study the logistics, options, and cost of sponsoring this type of event. The committee consists of Jim Wheeler, Mary McCree, and Gail Dickert.

Mark announced two upcoming work days (Nov. 8 and Nov. 22) to plant new camellias and clean-up the Sara Oliver Camellia Garden so it will look great for the dedication on Jan 29th when the ACS National Convention comes to Valdosta. Also, due to the holiday season we will have our next club meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at the Cotton Corner in downtown Valdosta.

The speaker for the evening was John Swanson who gave a wonderful photo presentation of the trip he and Dinh took to the International Camellia Congress which was held in Spain and Portugal. The photo's and events of the trip were very interesting. J. D. auctioned off a very nice “Show Time” camellia that Mark had brought and gave new members a free camellia.



SHARE YOUR BLOOMS

Look at the nice display of blooms that Kay Thomerson took and displayed at her workplace. She said it drew lots of attention — in fact, folks were nearly fighting one another to take one home. Let's all follow her example and share our blooms at places like work, church, banks, retirement homes, etc., This is a wonderful way to promote our club and gain new members.

Join the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club Today

- ❖ Informative meetings – Camellias and much more!
- ❖ Share your gardening ideas and expertise with other members
- ❖ Group events

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month from September through March in Valdosta at the Crescent. Call Mark Crawford at 229-460-5922 for more information.

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Joint membership

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Gardening Interests:

Mail to:

Sandra Seago

Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club

1802 N. Oak St..

Valdosta, GA 31602

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!

(please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

Crescent Garden Center, 904 North Patterson St., Valdosta, GA

OCTOBER
2014

VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

We started the season with our first meeting at Ocean Pond with good attendance and an excellent program given by Cheryl Oliver from the Arts Center. We have six new members after this meeting that is a record for a single meeting. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, October 28 at the Crescent. We will have a covered dish meal before our program that will be given by John and Dinh Swanson on the camellias of Portugal.

Camellias are starting to bloom with sasanquas and the very early japonicas. We are now 6+ weeks away from our show so it is time to gib your camellias for our show on December 6. Gib will be provided at the meeting so apply it ASAP so you have a chance at a winning flower at the show. Watch out for mites in your gardens that will bronze your foliage. They can cause damage in just a few days if left unattended. Oil can be applied to control mites now that the weather has cooled.

J. D. and I attended the Gulf Coast Camellia Society meeting in Covington, Louisiana over the last weekend. We both gave talks and had a great time talking camellias with growers from along the gulf coast. Regional meetings like ACCS and GCCS are great places to meet people with similar interests and compare our different growing techniques and varieties.

Please mark your calendar that there is a work day at the church garden on November 8th. We have 8–10 new camellias to plant and still need to remove weeds and vines from the garden.

Look forward to seeing you at the Crescent — Mark.

Camellia Work Day Planned — We Need Everyone's Help
November 8th from 9:00 to 12:00
Christ Episcopal Church, 1501 North Patterson St.



Next Club Meeting

**Tuesday
Oct. 28**

6:30 PM

**Crescent
Annex Bldg.**

**904 N. Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA**

**BRING A
COVERED DISH
AND A FRIEND**

Next Camellia Show

**Middle Georgia
Camellia Society**

**Bryon Municipal
Complex**

**401 Main St.
Bryon, GA**

**Sat. & Sun.
Nov. 8 & 9**

**Bloom Entry
7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Sat.**

**Open to Public
Beginning Sat.
at 1:00 p.m.**

"The Weird, Strange, and Freaky" UFO's of the Camellia World

By J. D. Thomerson

You will probably think I am going crazy after reading this article – or perhaps you already think I'm crazy but my mind really enjoys thinking about some pretty weird stuff. For example, in Genesis 6: verse 4 the Bible states that "There were giants (some translations say Nephilites) in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bore children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown (King James Bible.) Ok, who were these giants or Nephilites? Later, when the Jewish people were about to enter the land of Canaan they sent out spies to see who was living there. The report came back and Numbers 13:33 gives this report: "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants (Nephilites): and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." Ok, don't worry – this is not going to be some type of sermon or religious blog. Believe me; I don't understand either of the above two verses. I do like wondering about things like this and also how Goliath (that David killed with a sling shot) was reported to be nine feet, six inches tall.

My wife (Kay) has grown tired of hearing my theories about who these Nephilim were but she does like watching strange, weird, and freaky programs on TV. We both really liked watching the X Files TV Program. This program featured two FBI Special Agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) investigating X-Files: marginalized, unsolved cases involving paranormal phenomena. Mulder believes in the existence of aliens and the paranormal while Scully, a skeptic, is assigned to make scientific analyses of Mulder's discoveries to debunk his work and thus return him to mainstream cases. If you ever watched an episode of the X Files you saw some weird and strange things. We were both sad when they stopped making more X File episodes.

But, then along comes the program "Lost." This program follows the survivors of the crash of a commercial passenger jet flying between Sydney and Los Angeles. They find themselves on a mysterious tropical island somewhere in the South Pacific Ocean and believe me some really strange and freaky things happen on this island. We watched every episode of this program for six years thinking it would have some amazing ending and we would figure out what all the strange things were about but when it ended we did not understand one bit more than when it started – the final episode was a big let-down to us.

I promise this is all leading to something about camellias – but, I did want to mention what Kay and I are currently wasting our time watching on TV. Perhaps some of you are hooked on the same weird programs and if so we both would love for you to explain what is going on. Kay and I have gone our separate directions with our strange TV choices. Kay is watching "The Walking Dead" featuring all kinds of zombies taking over the world – or something like this. It is a bit too weird and gory for me so you will have to ask her exactly what is going on with that program. For me, I am hooked on the program called "Ancient Aliens" that is also pretty strange but some of the episodes can



**Golden Spangles with Odd
Variegated Leaves**



**Dragon Fireball - A Very
Unique Bloom**



**Kumagai Nagoya - A Great
Rootstock but Funky Bloom**



Raspberry Ripple Picotee

really make one wonder about what has gone on in this world. One episode dealt with the Nephilim I discussed at the beginning of this article but after watching this episode I still did not understand – but, I still like watching and thinking about strange, weird, and freaky things.

Well, finally to camellias. Did you know that there are several camellia varieties that I would describe as weird, strange, and freaky? Some folks would probably not care for these varieties but odd balls like Kay and I really like these freaky varieties. The folks that grow and hybridize daylilies have a special name for these weird blooms – they call them UFO’s and they are perhaps one of the favorite (or at least most expensive) types of daylily. Well, I want to share with you some of the strange and weird camellia blooms that I know about. Who knows, one day we might have a special class for camellias called UFO’s like the daylily folks. Remember, just because a variety has a strange or different bloom does not mean that it is not beautiful.



Black Magic

First on the list of strange camellias is a variety called **Kumagai Nagoya**. It is probably best known for being an incredibly fast growing variety that is great for using as grafting rootstock. I have heard some folks say that it has an ugly bloom – I don’t think so – I do think it is extremely weird looking. Take a look at the photo above and notice the odd stamens, petaloids, or whatever in the center of this bloom. I have many grafted plants growing on Kumagai Nagoya rootstocks but I have one nice plant of this variety that I never plan to graft.

There are very few camellias that I just don’t really like and I am definitely in the minority when I say that I don’t really care for the variety named **Black Magic**. OK, I can hear many camellia folks saying that I am crazy –many would list Black Magic as one of their most favorite varieties and if you go by the many awards it wins at shows then I guess I really am just crazy. But, to me, Black Magic looks fake. It has thick, waxy, dark red petals that look like they must be plastic. The bloom is definitely different looking and I respect all the folks that really like this one so please forgive me if I “dissed” (I think that is a new “cool” term for offended – I will have to check with my teenage daughter) one of your favorites.

Take a look at the photo’s of **Tinsie** (the variety **Lipstick** is very similar.) These two cute miniatures are very unique. They both are anemone type blooms with red outer “guard” petals with white centers. Yes, if you use your imagination, the variety Lipstick does look like a tube of lipstick (well, you have to really use your imagination.)

What is the deal with **Mermaid** – why would I put it on a list of odd camellia varieties? If you look at just the bloom of Mermaid it looks about as normal a camellia bloom as possible. It is a large, white, semi-double bloom that looks perfectly normal. However, if you look at the leaves you will see why they named this one Mermaid. The ends of the leaves look like a fishes or mermaids tail – very interesting and like no other camellia leaves I have seen.



Tinsie



Whoopee



Mermaid Leaf



Tulip Time

Another variety with very unusual leaves is the variety **Golden Spangles** which has green leaves marked with a light yellowish green, irregular pattern in the center. This variety has a small single pink bloom but is grown for the foliage effect instead of the bloom. Another interesting foliage variety is **Egao Corkscrew** and as the name implies it is grown for the distinctive and unusual zig-zag growth pattern of the branches. I have never tried growing a camellia as a bonsai but I understand this variety is an excellent choice for doing so – I think I might actually try.

With a name like **Crazy Sue** this variety surely has to make the strange, weird, and freaky list. Listen to the Camellia Nomenclature description of this variety: “Red to Pink to White blotched Red or Pink and/or White.” Yes, with Crazy Sue seldom are two blooms the same. You might get solid red, pink, or white, or all kinds of combinations of these colors all on the same bush. I don’t have this variety but I want to get it just to see all the different blooms it produces.

A new sasanqua that has a bloom like nothing I have ever seen before is the variety **Strawberry Limeade**. It is a formal double which by itself is rare for a sasanqua and it has strawberry pink petals tipped lime green with a lime green center – very unusual. I have never seen this one but of course I want it.

Night Rider has very dark black red blooms – perhaps the closest to an actual black bloom of any camellia. I guess the dark red DNA of this variety is all throughout the plant – if you dig up this variety and look at its roots even they are red. I have heard this one is a bit hard to grow but my wife (Kay) really likes the very dark red varieties so I plan to try grafting it on the vigorous Kumagai Nagoya variety mentioned earlier and hope for the best. Other very dark red blooms that are quite unique are **Takanini** and **Sawada’s Mahogany**.

Last January when I began grafting Mark Crawford gave me a scion of **Manuroa Road** and told me that I really wanted to graft this variety. I had never heard of this variety but he told me it was rare and I was very lucky to be getting a scion. Naturally, I wanted to graft it but after I did my “steel trap” mind soon forgot everything Mark had told me about this one. Of course, this variety was the first graft to callus and begin rapid growth -- so I had to ask Mark to tell me about this one again. He said this one was very special and that it looked like a very dark red dahlia. I did a Google search and found a couple of photos and yes, it looks more like a dahlia than a camellia, and yes, it is gorgeous. I am very thankful that Mark knew I really wanted this one even if I was totally clueless.

If you want a camellia plant that no one would even know is a camellia plant, grow the camellia species **Handelii**. This variety, actually it is a species, has long drooping branches with very small leaves and tiny white blooms that emerge all up and down the long slender branches. To me, this camellia resembles a large white spirea type of bush more than a camellia. Lillian Gordy has a Handelii camellia growing in her yard that her husband “Gordy” trained as a standard or topiary – all the lower branches were removed and the effect is just wonderful. I hope to get a photo of this plant this coming year.

The varieties **Raspberry Ripple Picotee**, **Whoopee**, **Dragon Fireball** and **Tulip Time** are other varieties that I think are very different and unique for various reasons (I have included photos of each of these.) And, I am sure there are many others that could have been included if space and time allowed.

Upon reviewing all of the blooms in this article it really doesn’t seem right to call any of them strange, weird, or freaky — In fact, I think they are all actually quite pretty. But, if you look at the bloom of each of the varieties listed I think you will agree that they are all a bit different from the average camellia bloom. And, to be honest, perhaps looking a bit weird, freaky, strange, unique, odd, different, or some other term is not such a bad thing. When I look back over all the varieties listed I really like all of them and any that I don’t already have I want – well, except for Black Magic – I still think it looks fake.



Crazy Sue



Strawberry Limeade



Night Rider



Manuroa Road

RETIC HYBRIDS ORIGINATED BY HULYN SMITH

Hulyn Smith was one of the first growers in the Southeastern United States to grow camellia reticulata and reticulata hybrids. Hulyn grew varieties that folks from California and all over the world would send him to try out in the hot and humid South Georgia climate. Hulyn grew these varieties both indoors and outdoors and was the “go to” guy for scions of many incredible varieties. Soon, just growing retic hybrids originated from others (like Frank Pursel and Jack Mandarich) was not enough — Hulyn began hybridizing his own retic hybrids. Hulyn originated several excellent japonica’s and a couple of non-retic hybrids but his love was definitely the retics. When registering his new introductions Hulyn would name them for family members and friends. Unfortunately, Hulyn passed away before all of his great retic hybrids had been registered. Currently, Randolph Maphis is continuing to propagate and register many of Hulyn’s seedlings. The photo gallery that follows contains all of the named retic hybrids that Hulyn Smith originated as well as a couple that will soon be registered.



Elizabeth B. Hunt



Grandandy



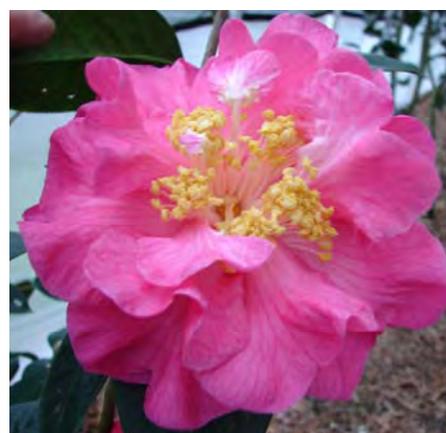
TitleTown USA



Betty Jean Daugharty



Fannie Louise Maphis



Hulyn's Sweet Emily



Bryant White



Kay Thomerson



June Curry



Sherrida Crawford



Ali Hunt



Maureen Schloss



Ray Gentry Var



Nedra Ann Mathis Var



Huly'n's Meadowbrook



Mary Maude Sharpe



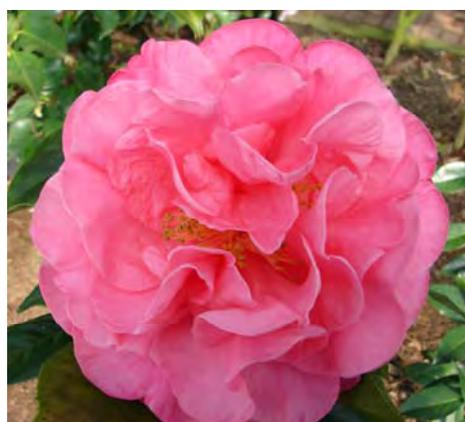
Mary Rhodes



Rebecca Margaret



HS #13



Adrene Wheeler



Nita McRae



L. H. Paul



Lady Ruth Ritter



Meredith Green



Mary Catherine Cape



HS #500



Victoria Whiddon



Sara Paul



Randolph Maphis Var



Amarie



Mary Lou Watford



Howard Rhodes



Beulah Henny



Photo of Mandy Smith — Very Large, Red with Frosted Sheen



Huly Smith and Randolph Maphis at the Valdosta Camellia Show in December 2009

Minutes of the September 2014 Meeting of the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club

The 2014 camellia season got off to a great start with approximately 35 people in attendance at the first club meeting held at the Ocean Pond clubhouse on Sept. 23rd. After the social time hour we once again enjoyed the fried chicken, tomato casserole, biscuits, and all the other great food. Mark Crawford began the club meeting by welcoming several new club members and discussing the many events that will be happening this camellia season. Planned events this year include two work days (Nov. 8 and Nov. 22) to plant new camellias and clean-up the Sara Oliver Camellia Garden so it will look great for the dedication on Jan 29th when the ACS National Convention comes to Valdosta — Mark stated that he wanted all club members to be present at this event (many more details will be forthcoming.)

The 50th Annual Valdosta Camellia Show will be held once again at First United Methodist Church on Saturday, Dec. 6th and we want to put on a super show to celebrate 50 great years (again, more details to come.) Mark also stated that he wanted to have a local camellia display (like we have had the past two years) at the Lowes Garden Center and that it could be held on either Jan. 24, Feb. 14, or Feb. 21 (depending upon the weather.)

The speaker for the evening was Mrs. Cheryl Oliver, Executive Director, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. She gave a wonderful presentation dealing with “Camellias in the Arts.” To show the club’s appreciation J. D. presented Cheryl with a nice camellia plant. J. D. also gave free camellias to new members who joined the club (but he unfortunately ran out) — he promised the new members who did not get a plant that they would get one at the Sept. club meeting. Mark Crawford gave out free gibberellic acid and demonstrated how to “gib” a camellia bloom. The next club meeting will be held at the Crescent on Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Join the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club Today

- ❖ Informative meetings – Camellias and much more!
- ❖ Share your gardening ideas and expertise with other members
- ❖ Group events

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month from September through March in Valdosta at the Crescent. Call Mark Crawford at 229-460-5922 for more information.

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Joint membership

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Gardening Interests:

Mail to:

Sandra Seago

Treasurer, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club

1802 N. Oak St..

Valdosta, GA 31602

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!

(please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

Crescent Garden Center, 904 North Patterson St., Valdosta, GA

September, 2014

VALDOSTA CAMELLIA AND GARDEN CLUB

A Message From Our President Mark Crawford

Can you believe it! September is here and another camellia season begins along with many other activities including the football season. Everyone that attended our last meeting in April at Camzalea hosted by Sandra and Fred Jones had a great time and the lunch was fantastic.

Our late summer rains almost assures us a good bloom season unless we get another "polar vortex" like last winter. Let's hope for the best possible winter weather especially for late January 2015 when the American Camellia Society annual convention is in Tallahassee. Valdosta will be included as part of the convention with my camellia garden and Jerry and Carol Selph's garden on tour. We will also have the dedication of the Sara Oliver Camellia Garden in Honor of Hulyn and Janet Smith located at Christ Episcopal Church on North Patterson as part of the tour so everyone needs to put Thursday, January 29, 2015 on your calendar to attend this dedication.

If your camellias have scale or you have a history of scale now is the time to spray as this time of the year is when the crawlers are active. The crawler stage is the best time to control scale before they form their hard shell coverings. You can use oil now that the daytime temperatures are below 90 degrees. Oil sprays will also control and prevent southern red mite damage on the foliage.

We will meet at Ocean Pond on Tuesday, September 23rd for our first meeting of the 2014-2015 season. You need to call or email Emily Newbern, 229-245-8086 enewbern@vol.com for your dinner reservation at Ocean Pond by September 19th. The cost is \$14.00. Remember if you have a reservation and do not show up, you are still responsible for the cost. Arrive at 6:00 for a social hour and dinner is at 7:00.

We have a very special speaker and program for the meeting that will be a surprise so be sure to attend.

Look forward to seeing everyone after our summer recess.

Mark

Next Club Meeting

Tuesday
Sept. 23

6:00 PM

Lake Park, GA
Ocean Pond
Clubhouse

Please RSVP

Emily Newbern
at 229-245-8086
or
enewbern@aol.com

Next Camellia Show

Georgia National Fair
Miller-Murphy-Howard
Building

Perry, GA

Sat. & Sun.
October 11 & 12

Bloom Entry
7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Sat.

Open to Public
Beginning Sat.
at 1:00 p.m.

"LORD, TEACH ME PATIENCE" And Hurry Up!

By J. D. Thomerson

It has been said, "Patience is a virtue" and "good things come to those who wait." Do you get annoyed when things don't happen fast enough? Do you tap your foot impatiently or keep looking at your watch when waiting in a long line at the store? Have you ever honked your horn at the slow poke at the traffic light who want go when the light turns green? One of the hardest traits to learn is patience. People have a tendency to want things when they want them.



Patience: The quality you admire in the driver behind you but can't stand in the driver who's in front of you.

Anonymous

Patience has several definitions. Merriem-Webster dictionary defines patience as "the ability to wait for a long time without becoming annoyed or upset" but also the "ability to give attention to something for a long time without becoming bored or losing interest."

Synonyms for patience are endurance, resolve, determination, doggedness (I like this one), longsuffering (this sounds bad but often is a fact of growing camellias), perseverance, grit, and staying power. If you are a serious camellia grower each of these words or traits are very important for long term success. If you don't possess most of the above traits I doubt you will be very successful growing camellias or any other plant. But, these words all sound like a lot of hard work to me. Camellias are supposed to be a fun hobby so let's look at another aspect of the word patience.

By perseverance the snail reached the ark.

Charles Spurgeon



The Hebrew language has several different words for the concept of patience and the one I really like (especially as it relates to the camellia hobby) is "qavah" which means "**to wait for, to look for, to hope, or to expect.**" These terms sound much nicer and enjoyable than our English dictionary definitions of patience and the synonyms such as "longsuffering, endurance, grit, and staying power."

In reality it takes all the above meanings of the term patience to really enjoy and be successful with camellias but I personally enjoy doing all the hard work so I can enjoy the Hebrew "qavah" aspects.

Not convinced that patience is a huge factor that effects all aspects of the camellia hobby? If so, read the following list of just some of the ways that we "camellians" must demonstrate patience:

1. Most Camellia Clubs hold their last meeting of the year in March and do not meet again until September -- this is a long time to wait and those summer months seem to drag on and on forever.
2. The ACS Yearbook is only published once a year and the Journals four times a year and I look so forward to getting them that I rush to the mailbox often around the time they are typically mailed out to usually be disappointed knowing that I must wait another day or week for the publications to arrive.
3. I enjoy growing camellias from seed -- but, oh my goodness, they take years (and I mean sometimes up to four, five, six, seven, or more years) to get to see the first bloom.
4. Camellia plants only produce seed pods one time a year -- if you neglect to collect seeds in the fall one year you have to wait a full 12 months to get another shot.
5. I have not hybridized (placed male pollen from one bloom on the female part of another flower) my own seedlings yet (but I want to learn how to do this) but I can only imagine the wait and anticipation of seeing if your camellia crosses have set seed and the excitement and/or disappointment that accompanies this waiting and longing process. Then, you must wait and hope the seedling sprouts, and then wait years to see the first bloom. Perhaps this aspect of the camellia growing process requires the most patience of all.



6. The first camellia show of the year (within driving distance) is always eagerly awaited for and for some of us seems like having to wait for Christmas to arrive when we were kids.



7. Many (perhaps most) camellia plants are very slow to get established in the yard after planting and often they just sit there for two or three years and do not grow an inch. I often say they are deciding if they want to grow or die. This can be very frustrating for the new camellia grower that only has a few plants and they just don't seem to be growing near as fast as we would like.

8. Rooting camellias require similar patience like grafting and air-layering -- I know it takes several months for the small cuttings to develop callus and put out new roots but I can't help pulling a few cuttings out of the rooting



mix every month or so just to check on the progress. And, even if the small rooted cutting does make roots I then have to wait two, three, or more years before the little thing gets large enough to bloom or plant in my yard.

9. A good camellia collection takes many years to accumulate and get established and there is always just one or two more that we longingly hope to acquire.

10. I really enjoy grafting camellias but oh how it tries my patience most years. I typically cleft graft camellias in the ground and in pots around the end of January and first of February. Well, of course I hope for 100% success knowing this is unrealistic. I try and tell myself to just wait until April 15 to check the grafts to see if they have taken and are alive -- but, I just can't help peeking under my cups almost weekly beginning around the first of March. It can be so disappointing to see some of your grafts die. When I have a bad grafting year I get so discouraged that I tell myself I will never graft again -- but, after a 12 month wait I am eager at it again.

NEVER EVER
EVER
GIVE UP!



11. OK, what about air-layering camellias -- I really enjoy this also but it is not an overnight process. Well, I typically perform air-layers in April or early May and of course you

must wait five, six, or more months to allow roots to develop. But, I typically am out in the hot sun during July and August squeezing the tin foil balls checking to see if they are getting hard even though I know they still need several more months to develop.

12. Hulyn Smith told me more than once that sometimes a camellia plant just dies (no fault of the grower.) His recommendation was to just move on -- plant another one. If a serious camellia grower with many plants tells you they have never had a camellia plant die then I say they are lying -- I know I have killed my share. Of course, nothing can make someone want to give up or quit like having plants die -- but, a good camellia grower must persevere.

i love
LISTENING
to lies when
i know the
TRUTH.

13. With help from Randolph Maphis I have been grafting and collecting many of those amazing reticulata varieties that he is famous for bringing to camellia shows. I was so excited this past fall/winter that these retics were setting many big fat buds. I disbudded a few and jibed some others and you could tell the blooms were going to be huge. Then, we had a hard freeze down around 23 degrees in Valdosta and all those big fat buds began to fall off these retics. I had been giving these plants extra special attention (fertilizing, pruning, spraying fungicide, etc.,) for two and three years while waiting patiently to see the amazing blooms. Oh, the disappointment I had when all the buds fell off from the cold -- and knowing that I must wait another full year for the chance to see them bloom. Side Note: I will have some kind of greenhouse or shelter for these retics this coming bloom season -- I am determined not to let this happen again.



Photo of Reticulata Hybrid
Renee Land

14. I remember how Hulyn Smith was always "chomping at the bit" to disbud all his remaining blooms, prune, and begin fertilizing his plants in late winter/early spring. He was so eager to get a jump start on the next camellia season. He would discuss with Mark Crawford what new fertilization program he thought was best and just could not wait to begin getting



his plants ready for the coming season even if that meant disbudding loads of potentially gorgeous current season blooms.

15. It takes most "camellians" many years to really decide what type of camellia blooms they like the best. At first, I only wanted to collect the Large to Very Large varieties especially the variegated ones. As the years pass I am really liking the miniatures and mass blooming small varieties that make such a nice landscape statement in the yard. So, the collection process just never seems to stop and most camellians are always looking for and hoping to acquire new varieties.



Camellia Sasanqua: Yuletide

16. I really like sasanqua varieties with their amazing mass bloom effect in the fall. They begin the camellia season and the return of cooler weather that is so welcome after months of sweltering summer heat. I

so look forward to many of my sasanqua varieties blooming each year. But, look quick because sasanquas do not have a long bloom season like japonicas and retics and you don't gib them to get earlier blooms. Each variety puts on an amazing show for a couple of weeks and then you must wait another 12 months to see them bloom again. Hint: grow several different varieties of sasanquas that bloom at different times.

17. Most camellia growers that are truly addicted to camellias eventually run out of room to plant or put anymore camellias -- I know that is the case at my house. I even agreed to take over the yearly yard duties (cut the grass, trim bushes, etc.,) of my next door neighbor if she would allow me to store the extra hundreds (or thousands if you include all the seedlings) of camellias that just want fit in my yard. I have studied and studied where I could possibly build a greenhouse or buy some extra land to have a permanent place to put these plants. I have told friends that one day I will have a greenhouse



photo of my neighbors backyard that I have taken over

and/or an extra lot near my house for these plants but one day just never seems to get here -- but, I still hope and dream.

18. Driving to out of town camellia shows and meetings takes incredible patience for me. I am not a good traveler. After about two hours I am ready to be there - I am about as bad as a young child asking my normal driving partner Mark Crawford "are we about there yet" or "how many more miles till we get there."



Well, have I convinced you that PATIENCE is a vital aspect of being a successful camellia grower? If not, I could list several more things us "camellians" must be patient about but I don't want to do that because most of the readers of this article probably wouldn't have the patience to keep reading them all.

Patience is very tough for me. You see, I am a doer. If I want to see certain results my mind thinks that the harder I work the quicker I will see good results. Well, being a doer and hard worker is usually a good attribute but if you combine it with impatience it can be very frustrating. This is especially true with the camellia hobby. There are a multitude of camellia activities that require much patience in order to not get frustrated or even give up and choose a different hobby.

My friend Hulyn Smith told me often that if the camellia hobby ever stopped being fun that would be the day he gave up the hobby and went and bought a bass boat. Well, I really enjoy fishing and used to fish a great deal before I got obsessed with camellias so I have always remembered this statement -- but, it takes a lot of patience to be a good fisherman too so perhaps Hulyn should have used a different example.



Mark Crawford & J. D. Thomerson fishing - we better stick with camellias

Lord, teach me patience -- help me to slow down and enjoy the ride. For if the truth be known, it is the "qavah" (remember the Hebrew word for patience that means "to wait for, to look for, to hope, or to expect") that is actually the most enjoyable aspect of the camellia hobby. I encourage all of you to keep expecting, hoping, longing for, and yes, waiting -- or in other words, be PATIENT.



“RANDOLPH’S RARE RETICS”

45 Beautiful Blooms That Are Not Often Seen

Part 1 of a 2 Part Series:
Next Month: “Hulyn Smith’s Retics”

(Thanks to Randolph Maphis for Allowing Me to Use His Photo’s)



Seng Jie



Katie Shipley



S. P. Dunn Var



John Newsome



Raspberry Glow



Mandy Smith



Mary Elizabeth Dowden



Mouchang



Shanghai Lady



Beth Dean



Big Dipper Var



Delta Dawn



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Bill Goertz Var



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We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings!

(please come as our Guest and you can decide if you want to join later)

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

Crescent Garden Center, 904 North Patterson St., Valdosta, GA