

# *Atlantic Coast Camellias*

Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

---

Volume 71

January 2022

No. 1

---



*Camellia Japonica* 'Black Gold'

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCS Officers .....	3
A Message from Our President by Fred McKenna .....	4
Obituaries .....	5
Camellias Named for Famous People ( <i>and For ACCS Members We Know and Love</i> ) by J. D. Thomerson .....	12
Share your Blooms by Alex Hinson .....	22
How Do People Get Interested In Camellias? And How Do They Decide Which Varieties to Grow? by Philip Thomas.....	26
Pruning Camellias by Mark Crawford .....	34
The Love Story of Mark Allen and Camille by J. D. Thomerson .....	37
ACCS State Directors .....	38

---

## *From the Cover* **Black Gold**

Small to Medium, black red with red anthers and gold filaments, semidouble with wavy, crinkled petals. Compact growth blooming midseason. Registered in 1982 by Paul Gilley of Grand Ridge, Florida.

Black Gold photos taken by  
J. D. Thomerson



**ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY  
OFFICERS 2021-22**

PRESIDENT.....Fred McKenna  
3740 Battlefield Blvd. S., Chesapeake, VA 23322  
757-432-0220, fred.mckenna@me.com

1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT .....Carol Selph  
P. O. Box 423, Suwanee, FL 32692  
772-577-8863, carolselphaccs@gmail.com

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT..... Tommy Alden  
3204 Burnett Road, Bryon, GA 31008-8308  
478-825-1337, tommy@countylinenursery.com

TREASURER ..... Fred Jones  
2056 Dunn Road, Moultrie, GA 31768  
229-941-5774, fredcjones@windstream.net

HISTORIAN.....Randolph Maphis  
7476 Skipper Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32317  
850-528-4795, crmaphis@comcast.net

EDITOR ..... J. D. Thomerson  
111 East Alden Ave., Valdosta, GA 31602  
229-412-1227, jthomers@valdosta.edu

WEBMASTER ..... Richard Buggeln  
1719 Verrazzano Drive, Wilmington, NC 28405-4227  
910-509-1792, rcbuggeln@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT.....Randolph Maphis  
7476 Skipper Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32317  
850-528-4795, crmaphis@comcast.net

**ACCS WEBSITE**

**<http://atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org>**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Fred McKenna

It's an honor to serve as your president for the next two years and I am looking forward to the opportunity. It has been a privilege to serve on the ACCS Board over the last few years, learning from many of you how to grow and show camellias. I still have much to learn. What makes ACCS great is that it has been a real joy over the years participating in the shows and enjoying the many friendships surrounding this wonderful hobby.

It was Clayton Mathis who first invited me to consider being an ACCS board member. To me, Clayton will always be remembered as a fine example of the high caliber people that attracted my wife, Toni and I to ACCS. As this message is being written, we just heard the sad news of another fine member of ACCS being recently lost, Richard Mims. Richard's friendship and guidance will be sorely missed by many of us. It is wonderful that we have such a strong society, where folks just like Clayton and Richard are reaching out to help others and offering strong friendships.



Fred and Toni McKenna

Looking forward, I know I have the responsibility of taking care of a society that you enjoy so much. I have big shoes to fill following behind Randolph Maphis. With the help of our talented officers and board members, we can do just about anything. The talent of this group is simply 4.0 as they say in the Navy. All of us will be striving to make the future even brighter for ACCS as we set our sights on growing.

The American Camellia Society National Convention will be held at Fort Valley, GA on February 23-27, 2022, hosted by the Middle Georgia Camellia Society. In order to make our schedules more convenient, I have asked for a free time slot in the convention agenda to conduct the ACCS spring board meeting. Currently, we have penciled Thursday, February 24, 2021 at 0900 in Masee Lane as the time for the next spring Board meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at future camellia events and I will endeavor to do my best for ACCS.

# OBITUARIES

## ACCS Mourns the Loss of the Following

**R**ichard Calvin Mims, Sr., a resident of Lugoff, SC, passed away peacefully on December 3rd, 2021. A celebration of life service will be held at Barr-Price Funeral Home Chapel, Lexington, at 2:00 pm, Sunday, December 5th, with graveside service to be held at the Batesburg Cemetery following. Visitation will be held prior to the service at 1:00 pm.

Richard was born October 2, 1930 to the late Franklin Olin Mims and Lucille Rast Mims of Eutawville, SC. A graduate of Eutawville High School, Richard went on to serve in the United State Navy during the Korean War before attending and graduating from the University of South Carolina in 1958. He later continued his education at Furman University for his MBA degree and later pursued a PhD in Higher Education Administration at Florida State University (ABD). As a student at USC, Richard was a member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. He began his career with USC as an assistant manager of the campus bookstore.

In October 1958, Richard began teaching at Anderson Junior College, then returned to employment at USC in 1960. He continued there until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1993. Richard's myriad positions until his retirement included: Office Manager of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Statistician for the Business and Economic Review in the College of Business Administration, Accountant for National Defense Student Loans, University Accountant, and Director of Payroll. In the College of General Studies (Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management) which later became the College of Applied Professional Sciences, he served as Chairman of the Commercial Education Department, Director of Advisement, Associate Professor, Assistant Dean, Associate Dean, and Director of the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Program, as well as serving on and chairing many major university committees. Richard touched the lives of thousands of USC Gamecock students through his advising duties and teaching at least two courses a semester through many of his years at the University. He was a prolific writer and authored instructor's manuals, student study guides, test banks, textbooks, and higher education journal articles.

Richard was a founding member of Carolina Collegiate Federal Credit Union (now Caro FCU) as well as USC's Administrative Employees' Club. He was chosen as USC's AEC Administrative Employee of the Year for 1990-1991. A staunch supporter of



**Richard Calvin Mims**



**Camellia Reticulata**  
**Richard Mims**

Gamecocks Athletics, Richard had season tickets each year for 60 years for the football and basketball games. He nurtured his friendships with colleagues through the USC Administrative Employees Club and retiree luncheons. He had a number of especially dear friends who shared dinners and events with each other. And, all the families would get together to barbeque and celebrate July 4th every year.

Richard has had many different hobbies over the years including raising tropical aquarium fish, gardening, raising koi and crayfish, writing articles for Atlantic Coast Camellias, writing letters to the editor and editorials to The State and

The Chronicle-Independent. Some of his most recent research participation, interviews and writing include: participation with a study “Ingestion of gastrolith mineralized matrix increases bone volume and tissue volume in mouse long bone fracture model,” sponsored by the Department of Clinical Investigation, Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, GA, published in the Journal of Orthopaedics, January 18, 2020; and an interview/oral history for a USC honor’s student’s thesis project, “Memories of a drowned town,” by Carol J.G. Ward, on the area around Eutawville before the area was flooded to create Lake Marion. His very last written article was published in The Chronical-Independent, on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, titled “Politicians don’t know better than we do.” published Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

Richard’s lifelong love of Camellias began while he was a student at USC. He and his wife, Katherine, traveled the southeast (even with children in tow) not only showing their beautiful blooms and winning awards and sweepstakes, but also loving serving as accredited judges. Richard was a member of the American Camellia Society, Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society and other local societies. With the American Camellia Society, Richard had served as a Director-At-Large, State Director, and Chairman of the Publications Committee as well as serving as a member of numerous other committees. He served as the Editor of Atlantic Coast Camellias, the Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society from 2003 to 2020. With the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society, he had served as President as well as was the Show Chairman for many of the State Fair and Spring Camellia Shows. Richard was awarded the National Flower of the Year (Arminta Cawood Award) in 2003 and 2005 with the camellias ‘Tomorrow’s Dawn’ and ‘Ruffian’, respectively. In March 2006, Richard was awarded the American Camellia Society’s Outstanding Seedling Award in Portland, Oregon. Although the seedling was to be named in honor of Parker Connor, the original plant and existing grafts were lost in a yard/greenhouse fire that year.

Richard loved gardening so much that he broke down and became somewhat of a Clemson Tiger when he acquired Master Gardener status through the Kershaw County Clemson Extension Program. Richard absolutely loved growing any kind of plant -- hydrangeas, daylilies, amaryllis, bromeliads, succulents, and even still had several plants he and Katherine had acquired on their honeymoon.

Richard was predeceased by his loving wife, Katherine Alexander Mims. Surviving are his children, Dr. Richard C. Mims Jr. (Ellen) of Macon, GA; Franklin A. Mims (Ylana) of West Columbia, SC; Mary Katherine Mims Hall of Lugoff, SC; and David Neill Mims (Margit) of Malaysia; grandchildren – Scott (Renee), Bert (Melessa), Alex (Cassidy), Grace, Emmalee, Tim, Reiner, Iain, Skye (Eric), Ana, Colleen, and Gabriela; great-grandchildren – Zoie, Abbie, Zackary, Calvin, Marleigh, Stella, and Seylore., In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the mission work of his son, Neill, at <https://beyond.kindful.com/?campaign=1023354>; to Hillcrest Middle School Library, 4355 Peach Orchard Road, Dalzell, SC 29040; or the American Camellia Society, the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, or any local Camellia Society of your choice.



**D**inh Thi Swanson, age 77, passed away peacefully on November 24th, 2020 at the North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville. From her birth on October 19th, 1943 to her death on Tuesday she brightened the world around her with boundless friendship, generosity, and sincerity. She was born in Hue, the historic imperial capital of Vietnam, and entered her grandmother's care at the age of four. Despite the challenges facing her country she distinguished herself as a free-spirited and witty youth with a love of adventure and a thirst for new experiences. It was her intelligent, inquisitive nature that led her to work as a translator/interpreter for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and it was her wit and beauty that attracted John Swanson when he first visited the Regional USAID Office in Da Nang. Two years later Dinh and John married on August 14th, 1970 in Quang Tri City, at Province Headquarters.



**Dinh Thi Swanson**

The young couple then embarked on a 50-year journey that saw them living in St. Paul, MN; Columbia, MO; Springfield, VA; Cairo, Egypt; Sana'a, Yemen; Islamabad, Pakistan; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Fairfax, VA; and Gainesville, FL. Along the way she made many lifelong friends and raised a family, all while working at a variety of jobs. While



**Camellia Japonica  
Dinh Swanson**

living abroad she visited Kenya, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. From Gainesville, trips to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Portugal, Spain, and Cuba were special. While in Gainesville she has actively been a volunteer at Dudley Farm State Park, the Gainesville Camellia Society, and has served as a clerk during several elections. She was most proud of her work assisting Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and most content relaxing in the garden she and John built around their Gainesville home.

She is survived by her beloved husband, John, and her two children, Megan and Steven. Dinh was preceded in her death by her parents, her grandmother, and a son, Neil. She will be

remembered as a vibrant, irreplaceable friend to all those whose life she touched. Dinh's charity of preference is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN.



**I**ris Bradfield Morris Shealy, 91 of Quitman passed away Thursday, June 17, 2021 at her home with her loving family around her. Mrs. Shealy was born in Atlanta, GA on January 6, 1930 to the late Ralph Milledge Morris and Iris Jarrell Morris. The family moved to Gainesville, GA in 1933 and shortly thereafter to Greenville, SC. In 1936 they moved to Charlotte, NC. In Charlotte she lived across from the Graham Brothers Dairy Farm where Billy Graham lived, and she told fond stories of growing up there.

In 1940 she moved to Columbia, SC with her family and lived on Forest Lake. She attended Davis High School and the University of South Carolina. She always pulled for the Gamecocks unless they were playing the Georgia Bulldogs. She received her Radiologist Technical degree from Charlotte Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, NC. It was there she met Dr. L. M. Shealy. They were married on July 7, 1951, at Bethel Methodist Church in Columbia SC.



**Iris Bradfield Morris Shealy**



In 1952 they moved to Quitman, GA where Dr. Shealy practiced medicine until his death in 1984. In 1958 they purchased the Royal and Edna Cain Daniel house on North Court Street, and it was there she raised her three children; lived for the rest of her life and began her love for camellias. She was activity Director at the McIntosh Retirement Center for many years after Dr. Shealy died. Once she left the Retirement Center she enjoyed being with her grand and great grandchildren and working with her camellias. She also enjoyed going to many of the camellia shows in the area and being with her three dogs.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women of the Church, the Quitman Garden Club, the Wiregrass Camellia Society, the Hannah Clark Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Chapter 112 of the Georgia Division of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

She was predeceased by her husband Dr. L. M. Shealy and her two brothers Ralph M. Morris, III, and Joseph J. Morris. She is survived by her three children, Luther Mack Shealy, Jr. and his wife Bonnie, Bradfield Morris Shealy and wife Annette, and her daughter Iris Nancibeth Shealy. Her two grandchildren, Belinda E. Beatty and her husband Kip, and Anna C. Kenerly and her husband Eric. Her five great grandchildren, Kaden and Kason Beatty, and Fletcher, Daisey, and Roscoe Kenerly. She is also survived by her dogs Sammy, Bee and Shiloh.

A celebration of life was held Monday, June 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Quitman First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Jaque Asbel officiating. Interment followed at Oak Hill Cemetery. The family received friends Sunday evening from 6-8 p.m. at Maxwell - Purvis Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that a memorial be made to Hospice of South Georgia, Post Office Box 1727, Valdosta, GA 31603-9939 and American Camellia Society, 100 Masee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



**E**ileen Crocker Hart, 78, of Odessa, FL, passed away June 15, 2021. Survivors include her husband, Robert S. Hart II, Odessa; sons, Robert S. Hart III (Jennifer), Redington Beach and Stephan I. Hart (Nicole), Bryson City, NC; daughter, K. Suzanne Hart, Bryson City, NC; 5 loving grandchildren; her mother, Emma Jean Crocker, Thomasville, GA; sister, Judith Corbin, Thomasville, GA; brothers, Timothy E. Crocker (Linda), Pickens, SC and William I. Crocker (Ginger), Albany, GA; and a large extended family.

Memorial service was held Aug. 7, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., at Keystone United Methodist Church, 16301 Race Track Rd. in Odessa, with a reception following at the church.



**Eileen Crocker Hart**

In Eileen's memory the family requested that attendees bring a plant to swap in honor of her love of gardening and concern for the environment. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Camellia Society; the Eileen Hart Memorial 4-H Scholarship c/o M. McKinney, 1850 Raven Ridge St., Wesley Chapel, FL 33543; or Keystone UMC.

***The Following is reprinted from a story by Catherine Hawley of FOX 13 News, Hillsborough County, September 17, 2021 (The Photos are From Eileen Hart's Facebook Page of Her Garden)***

### **Family Hopes to Save Life's Work of Hillsborough County Master Gardener**

**Odessa, Fla.** - A son is on a mission to keep his mother's legacy alive. Eileen Hart spent decades growing a lush tropical garden. However, she passed away this summer, and now the two-acre property's future is uncertain. The family hopes her life's work can be saved with help from the community.

Eileen Hart was well known in the Tampa Bay gardening community. She logged thousands of hours as a master gardener volunteer teaching people about plants and how to grow them. "She could take a brown twig and get it to turn back into a plant," said Eileen's son, Stephan Hart.

Eileen used that talent to develop the family's property in Odessa into a layered tropical garden, thick with more than 1,000 different species and varieties. She started planting in 1975 and never stopped. "The property has turned from just kind of open sandy soil, some grass, and a few trees to a two-acre botanical garden," Stephan said. It's an intentional jungle, blooming year-round.

Stephan says his mother was full of energy right up until her sudden death this June. Eileen passed away from a heart attack at 78-years-old. "She's now in every garden with me spiritually," said Stephan. "She was always there mentally, but now she's definitely there hanging out, probably telling me you should plant that a little different or trim that."

Her husband, Robert, said he feels her presence every time he goes onto the property. "Just think of it," says Robert, "She created a garden for us to live in Eden." However, Robert is now in his 80s, and unable to care for the garden himself.



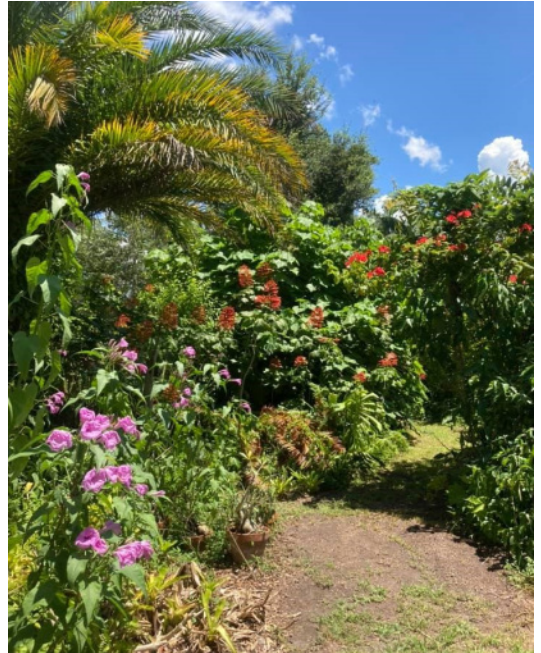
Stephen said: "We cannot lose this beautiful garden; There are 46 or more years of love and respect in this garden." The family wants to keep Eileen's legacy alive, turning her passion project into a dedicated botanical garden. The mission would be to educate and benefit the public. "I'd love to see it turn into some version of a public-private research garden," Stephan said.

They are still working out the details, but tell us there is interest from local organizations and the **Eileen C Hart Botanical Garden** will be a reality in a few years. "That was her biggest worry, was that nobody would care for her garden when she wasn't there," Stephan said. And he is not letting that happen. The family is raising money online to support maintaining the gardens while the transition is taking place.

**LINKS:**

Botanical Garden Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/eileenchartbotanicalgarden/>

GoFundMe Page for the garden transition: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/eileen-c-hart-botanical-garden-fundraiser>



# CAMELIAS NAMED FOR FAMOUS PEOPLE

(and For ACCS Members We Know and Love)

by: J. D. Thomerson

**W**hen flipping through the Camellia Nomenclature book do you ever stop and wonder who named some of the varieties and for whom? For example, who is Annie Tee and where did she live. What about Aunt Matie and Aunt Lola – I am sure someone in the camellia world knows these ladies but most do not.

We know about Betty Sheffield and her sports but who was Betty Lou, Bettie Settie, and Betty Sue? My mother is named Pattie Sue Thomerson but I know the variety named “Pattie Sue” was not named for my mother. Who is this Pattie Sue, where did she live, what does the bloom look like.

You might not think that these varieties you have never heard of are really very special – well, I am sure they were to the folks that named them. Also, don’t sell these rare varieties short – I never would have thought Annie Tee was much of a flower based on the name but once I saw an Annie Tee camellia bloom I realized I owed her an apology. Annie Tee is a gorgeous huge pretty thing. It is on my list to graft this season.

There are many flowers named after famous people. Take for example Bob Hope, Richard Nixon, Pat Nixon, and Nancy Reagan. We all know who these folks are and I have a Bob Hope camellia and have tried grafting Pat Nixon (but failed) but I have never seen a Nancy Reagan bloom. I’ve also heard of Buss Aldrin, Dr. Zhivago, Barbara McBride, and Paul Harvey but have never seen a bloom of any of them either.



**BOB HOPE VAR**

Black Red, Var., Large, Semi-double.  
Registered by Nuccio’s in 1972.



**ANNIE TEE VAR**

Ruby Red, Large, Peony. Registered by  
Mrs. A. T. Williams, Dothan, AL in 1966.



### SATAN'S ROBE

Oriental Red, Large, Semi-Double. Hybrid 'Satan's Satin' x Reticulata 'Crimson Robe'



### JIMMY CARTER

Light Pink with Red Stripes, Med., Rose Form, Registered in 2018 by Lillian Gordy

Randolph Maphis does have the reticulata named Patsy Cline and it is beautiful. And I even have a Vince Dooley camellia that Walter Homeyer named for Georgia's old football coach. Betty Foy Sanders, the wife of the old Georgia Governor in the 1960's was recently on the cover of the ACS Journal and got lots of attention. And I don't know which of the many Egyptian Pharaoh's it was named for but there is a huge beautiful red reticulata bloom named Pharaoh and I was even successful grafting it this past season. Not that he deserves one but even the old Devil himself has flowers named for him called Satan's Robe and another called Satan's Satin.

I am sure there are many more blooms named for famous people but I want to change gears and talk about some blooms named for people that are current or past members of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Most of these ACCS members are not nationally known and so-called famous outside the camellia world —but, they are known to us and we love them.

Randolph Maphis gave me the idea to make a game out of this. Well, I am a teacher so I am going to adapt his game idea and make this a test. In school I always preferred True and False questions because I had a 50% chance of getting them right even if I had no clue. My second favorite type questions were matching – and that is what we are going to do with this game/test. If you are curious, fill-in-the-blank (with no word bank), short answer, and essay were questions I seriously feared.

The instructions for the test are on the next page. There is an answer key if you need help on page 38 but try not to look unless you are totally stumped. Hope you have fun and make a 100.

**Editor's Note:** *I discovered several very recent camellia registrations named for ACCS members after completing this article — so, I will have to update these and others in future editions of the journal.*

**Instructions:** Write the name of each camellia on the blank line below the photo. I have given you clues to help with each one. Choices to choose from for the first eight varieties are on the next page. The overall answer key for all blooms is on p. 38.



1 \_\_\_\_\_

He, like his father before him, took care of the camellia collection at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, SC for many Years.



2 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for the nicest lady you could ever meet and a great grower of seedling camellias. If you visited her camellia garden in Ocala, FL she always fed you a wonderful lunch.



3 \_\_\_\_\_

Frank Pursel named this one for a dear phone buddy of his from Valdosta, GA that later became President of the ACS.



4 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for Hulyn Smith's dear friend from Tallahassee, FL that helped Hulyn save and register many varieties originated by Frank Pursel, Jack Mandarich, and others.

To make it a bit easier for those who struggle with test like I do — Here are the choices (not in correct order) for the names of the first 8 blooms: **Nedra Ann Mathis Var, Sandee Khoury, Hulyn Smith, Miles Beach, Annabelle Fetterman, Jasper Dewey, Lillian Gordy, and Randolph Maphis Var**



5 \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to serving as the President of the American Camellia Society this lady was also named one of the top 50 women executives in the nation by *Working Woman Magazine*



6 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for the wife of a past ACCS President who was a school principal from Douglas, GA. This lady is a joy to be around.



7 \_\_\_\_\_

Pat Johnson recently named this bloom for the new Editor of the ACCS Journal who normally goes by the initials J. D.



8 \_\_\_\_\_

Pat Johnson named this one for the beautiful wife of a handsome man that works for ACS at Masee Lane Gardens. She is the life of the party.



9 \_\_\_\_\_

This camellia was unofficially called "Awesome Blossom" for many years until the originator from Moss Point, MS finally was convinced by others to name it for himself.



10 \_\_\_\_\_

This one is named for a recently retired librarian at Valdosta State University that just happens to be married to a guy that runs a camellia nursery.



11 \_\_\_\_\_

Named by Frank Pursel for a lady that was married to a man from Valdosta, GA with a camellia addiction. She actually liked hydrangeas more than camellias.



12 \_\_\_\_\_

This non-retic hybrid of 'Scarlet Glory' x Camellia Azalea was recently named for the current Superintendent of Gardens at Masee Lane.



Here are the choices for the names of blooms 9 through 16: **Janet, John Newsom, Sherrida Crawford, Coach Mathis, Jim Smelley, Marilyn Maphis, William Khoury, and Chuck Ritter**



13 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for a fine gentleman and great camellia grower from Melrose, FL that is a long time consistent winner at shows all over the southeast.



14 \_\_\_\_\_

This man from Douglas, GA served Coffee County School System for 32 years as a History Teacher, Coach, and Principal. He was also a great camellia grower and served as ACCS President for years 2015 and 2016.



15 \_\_\_\_\_

A wonderful lady from Tallahassee, FL married to the Past President of ACCS and grandmother to some amazing grandkids. Her husband says "he rides the bus but she drives the bus."



16 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for the Head Judge of many if not most of the best camellia shows in the Southeast. He lives in the Atlanta, GA area and grows many fine camellias in his greenhouse.



17 \_\_\_\_\_

Hulyn called this doctor the master hybridizer and just a dang good camellia grower. He lived in Macon, GA and originated the Frank Houser camellia.



18 \_\_\_\_\_

This fine gentleman from Lugoff, SC served as the ACCS Journal Editor from 2003 to 2020. He retired from University of South Carolina where he served as Director of Payroll, Professor, Associate Dean and many other positions.



19 \_\_\_\_\_

This camellia grower from Citra, FL recently served as President of ACCS and is currently the President of the American Camellia Society.



20 \_\_\_\_\_

This sweet ladies husband named this sport of 'Show Time' for her in 2010. She worked as a public school English teacher for several years before becoming a writer and publisher of many books on the topic of Stenotyping.

Here are the choices for the names of blooms 17 through 24: **Mister Bob, Kay Thomerson, Walter Homeyer, Bev Ritter, Mister Patrick, Richard Mims, Jim Campbell, and Celeste Richards**



21 \_\_\_\_\_

This one is named for the beautiful wife of a brilliant young good looking guy that is the new Editor of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Journal. Hulyn Smith named this reticulata for her in 2010.



22 \_\_\_\_\_

This Small, Non-Retic Hybrid originated by Pat Johnson was named for a Past President of ACS from Covington, LA who among many other things has a large collection of Higo camellias.



23 \_\_\_\_\_

Pat Johnson recently named this flower for a former Executive Director of the American Camellia Society. She and her husband have a beautiful 2 year old baby girl named Maddie.



24 \_\_\_\_\_

This Gordy seedling was recently registered for a friend and frequent visitor of the Gordy's from Citra, FL. This man is very funny and a joy to be around.



25 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for a man from Ocala, FL known simply by his last name. His camellia garden was the finest that most camellia folks in the southeast have ever seen. His loving wife named this one in his memory.



26 \_\_\_\_\_

This Gordy seedling was registered in 2019 for this lady from Fort Valley, GA who has given years of dedicated volunteer service and support to ACS, ACCS, and Masee Lane Gardens. She has served as clerk chairperson for many years at the three MGCS Camellia Shows held each season.



27 \_\_\_\_\_

This lady from Gainesville, FL was born in Hue, the historic imperial capital of Vietnam. She worked as a translator for the U.S. Agency for International Development. She was such a joy to be around and brought a smile to everyone's face.



28 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for a very dear lady from Moss Point, MS who worked with AT&T for 38 years. She often served as a camellia head judge and taught camellia judging schools for many years. She also loved daylilies and was a daylily judge.

Here are the choices for the names of blooms 25 through 32: **Pat Pinkerton, Mary Rhodes, Cheryl Thompson, Dinh Swanson, Elaine, C. M. Gordy, Warren Thompson, and Howard Rhodes**



29 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for a very close neighbor and friend of Randolph Maphis. He has a very large collection of both outside and greenhouse grown camellias. He has degrees in Civil Engineering and worked for the state of Florida for 34 years in positions dealing with Environmental Policy.



30 \_\_\_\_\_

Named for a lady from Tallahassee, FL that holds a Masters Degree in Library Science and worked in Education for many years. She and her husband enjoy traveling and have attended many International Camellia Shows.



31 \_\_\_\_\_

This man worked as Postmaster in Fort Valley, GA. He served on the board of both ACS and ACCS. He received the prestigious Joseph H. Pyron Award in 2009 for outstanding service to ACS and he and his wife received the 2014 ACCS Award of Merit.



32 \_\_\_\_\_

This lady was married to a man named Jim who was an outstanding camellia grower as well as a great football coach. This dark red *reticulata* is a bit hard to grow but is an incredible bloom if you can keep it alive.

# *Share Your Blooms”*

by Alex Hinson

**A**bout ten years ago as my wife Jane and I were headed back to Quincy, FL from a camellia show up in Georgia, Jane asked me what happened to all the flowers when a show was over. I told her I thought they were all thrown away, and she asked why. I told her I thought it was part of the rules for an ACS show, and besides a lot of the blooms weren't in very good shape at the end of the second day.

We rode on silently for a few minutes and then she turned to me and said these words: “You men see hundreds and hundreds of these beautiful flowers every weekend and then you just toss them all in the trash. You have no idea how much one single flower can mean to a person in a nursing home. It can brighten up their room, brighten up their day, and brighten up their life.”

I knew instantly of course that she was right. I knew how much joy I could get myself from just one single flower. But, I only responded to her that I didn't think I could do anything about the shows. Then she said maybe not with the shows but I could do something about it with our club (The Tallahassee Camellia Society). “What do you want me to do?” I asked. She said that maybe our members could share their



**Howard and Mary Rhodes along with Randolph Maphis share their blooms with Mack and Quinnie Gilchrist at a Tallahassee, FL nursing home.**

**Randolph Maphis and Mrs. Roberta Hardison display their blooms at the local Publix Supermarket in Tallahassee, FL**



blooms with the sick and shut-in. I told her I felt sure that a lot of our members already did that. She said some probably did but that she meant the club as a whole as a project. I reminded her that we had not been in the club that long (about ten years at the time) and that something like that might well have been tried before, and I suggested that she talk to her friend Marilyn Maphis about it.

Having almost forgotten about the matter, a few days later Jane told me she had talked to Marilyn. Marilyn thought it was a great idea and said to tell (not ask) Alex to bring it up before the Board. That was easily done since I was the President at the time. The Board agreed that it was a good idea and that “Share Your Blooms” would be added as one of our club’s projects.

As I recall, about this same time the Board was in the process of reviewing our status as a non-profit corporation with the Florida Secretary of State and we were also trying to obtain our Section 501(c)3 exemption status with the IRS as a charitable organization. As part of the latter process, we had to submit a list of our service projects that benefited others, such as our annual show, annual waxing demonstration, and annual plant auction, and the “Share Your Blooms” project fit in well with this.

After the “Share Your Blooms” project was first announced to our club, I started reminding our members at each meeting to please share their blooms with others, especially with the sick and shut-in. As with lots of new ideas, we got off to a rather slow start. Jane recognized that and told me we had to do more to “make” the members do this. So I said talk to Marilyn again. She did and they came up with the

**“Share Your Blooms”  
2020 - 2021  
Tallahassee Camellia Society**

Club Member	Recipient	# of Blooms



idea of some simple reporting forms to try and nudge the members into doing more. These forms (see photo above) were distributed at each meeting so members could list the number of blooms they had shared and the general recipients of those blooms, and then the forms were picked up at the end of each meeting for tabulation later.

Also, one of our subsequent Board Members was skilled in graphics and designs, and he designed and printed a number of “Calling Cards” for our members to use if they wished when sharing their blooms (see photo above). These cards were especially useful if a member just had to leave the blooms somewhere. Packets of the calling cards were distributed to the members at each meeting with the reporting forms.

At the end of each Camellia year, an announcement was made of the total number of blooms shared by the club and who our top donors were. There were several years that we topped 3,000 blooms being shared by our little group, and to date the record title holders of being the top donors are Mary and Howard Rhodes who shared over 800



**Mark Crawford and J. D. Thomerson share their blooms inside the front entrance to the Valdosta Regional Airport**



blooms one year. We also have several members who repeatedly share several hundred blooms every year. My wife Jane likes to take boxes of flowers each year to the local nursing homes, and to go mid-afternoon so she can place the blooms on all of the dining tables before the residents assemble for their evening meal.

As our “Share Your Blooms” project was growing, it also became readily apparent that our members liked to share their blooms with all sorts of recipients in addition to the sick and shut-in, and this was strongly encouraged. So at the end of the year, it was fun to also see where all “our flowers” had gone. The list was endless – the beauty parlor, the dentist, choir practice, the teacher’s lounge, the library, the post office, etc., as well as Christmas parties, Valentine dinners, wedding rehearsals, funeral receptions, and so on. All of this was in addition to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, the cancer center and the home bound.

The covid-19 pandemic has definitely put a damper on our “Share Your Blooms” project, but it is hoped that it will come back even stronger and better than ever as conditions improve.

I guess the “moral” of this story is that all of us Camellia lovers should always remember: “You have no idea how much one single flower can mean to a person . . . And as we all learned very early on, sharing is just as rewarding for the donors as for the recipients.”



**Blooms shared at a church sponsored family night supper**



**Kay Thomerson shares her blooms at the Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services Retirement Banquet**

# HOW DO PEOPLE GET INTERESTED IN CAMELLIAS? AND HOW DO THEY DECIDE WHICH VARIETIES TO GROW?

by Philip Thomas

It's always intriguing to me to hear people talk about how they became interested in growing Camellias, and how they decide which varieties to grow. It seems to me, that most people who grow camellias were introduced to them when they were children, usually by parents and/or grandparents. My experience would be included in those introduced by their parents, but there were many people that helped motivate me to get more involved in collecting, growing, and even showing a few flowers in camellia shows. While most of the shows have been cancelled recently because of the Covid pandemic, I am hopeful most of the shows will resume this year.

As early as I can remember, my parents had camellias. They only had about six plants, but I remember those flowers from my childhood, and I have several of the cultivars now, that they had back then. The only ones I know the names of, and I have the cultivars of, are R. L. Wheeler Variegated, Herme, and Lady Clare. The Lady Clare seemed to bloom for a long time during the season. When I was in the sixth grade, in



**Herme (registered in 1875)**



**Lady Clare (registered in 1887)**

an effort to get into the good graces of my teacher, I decided one morning to cut one of the flowers, and take it to my teacher. Well, I had no idea how well that would be received. She got so excited, I decided to take her one every day! That Lady Clare was a very large, healthy bush, and it provided many flowers for my teacher. And, I was unquestionably the “teacher’s pet” that year (probably the only year I earned that distinction). One more story about those plants had to do with the R. L Wheeler



**Above: R. L. Wheeler Var. (registered in 1949)**  
**Right: Painting of R. L. Wheeler Var.**

Variegated. When my parents celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, my father was able to convince a local artist, who was a very accomplished painter, to create a water color of several of the R. L. Wheeler blooms from our yard for my mother. She did a beautiful job, and when my mother died in 2010, my siblings agreed to let me have that painting. I still have it prominently displayed in my home!

So, I would say my parents were the first people to foster my interest in camellias. But there were a number of other people that helped me along the way. Like most people, I didn't have much time to concentrate on camellias when I was in school, pursuing a career, and raising a family. There just wasn't enough time for a hobby like that. But I remember one day, when I was visiting my mother, my brother showed up with a Guilio Nuccio Variegated bloom that had been gibbed by a friend of his in Beaufort, SC. This friend's name was Louis Wright, and at the time he was in his eighties, but he was very active, and he was an accomplished camellia grower. He had about 300 cultivars in his yard, and numerous citrus trees. I told my brother I wanted to meet Mr. Wright, so he set up a visit, and that was the first of many visits I made to Mr. Wright's home. Each visit with him was truly inspiring. Unfortunately, Mr. Wright passed away about 5 years ago at the age of 101. He was a great guy!

My brother Bob also helped keep me interested in Camellias. In addition to introducing me to Mr. Wright, he also



**Guilio Nuccio Var. (registered in 1956)**



**Yeaman's Hall (registered in 2006)**



**Borom's Gem (registered in 1983)**

worked at a private club in Charleston, SC, Yeaman's Hall. I remember visiting him there, where he introduced me to a Mr. Borom who grew many camellias on the grounds. Mr. Borom introduced several new camellias, including Borom's Gem, which gained significant popularity back then. I also remember Bob giving me a Frank Houser Variegated that he had grafted a few years ago for my daughter's yard in Aiken, SC. She no longer lives in that house, but I drove by recently, and that plant is about eight feet tall, and doing great.

I also remember attending the camellia show in Charleston, SC about 15 years ago, and being really impressed by the beautiful flowers there. I asked someone where I could buy some of the ones that were so outstanding. They pointed to a guy there, and said his name was Miles Beach, and he could tell me where I might find those flowers. So, I walked up to Mr. Beach, introduced myself, and asked him where to get those flowers. He said for the flowers I was interested in, I probably should go see a guy named Mark Crawford at Loch Laurel Nursery in Valdosta, Georgia. So, I called

Mark, set up a time to visit, and went to see him. It was a treat for me to see all the camellias, and to talk to someone that was so knowledgeable, and so willing to share the information he had. I remember buying eight to ten camellias and hardly had room in the back seat of my pickup truck to bring them home. I've been back several times to see Mark since then, and it is always a pleasure to visit. The photo on the left is a recent picture of two camellias I bought from him, I believe on that first trip to his nursery.



**Large Camellias Purchased from  
Loch Laurel Nursery**

The biggest plant on the left is a Frank Houser, and on the right is a Frank Houser Variegated. There is also a Rebel Yell between them. Those two plants I got from Mark are two of my most favorite camellias. They obviously need a little pruning at this point.

I have probably learned more about camellias from Randolph Maphis than from anyone else. I can't remember who, but someone suggested I go see his camellias at his home in Tallahassee, Florida. It's probably been about ten years since I first called and asked if I could go visit and see his camellias. He

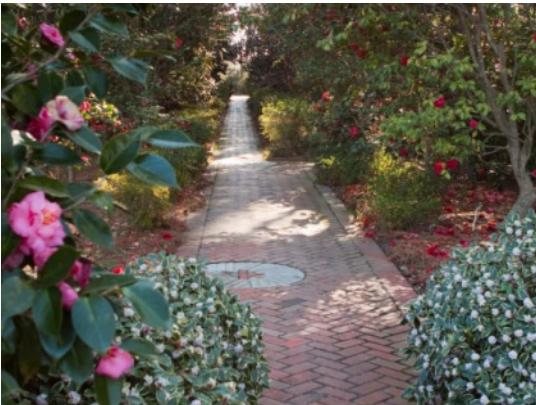


**Randolph Maphis Greenhouse #2**

was very gracious, and we set up a time for my visit. I was truly amazed at the flowers I saw there, and he very generously spent time talking about so many of the plants and about how to plant, fertilize, water, and prune camellias, etc. We went through his two massive greenhouses that were full of the most beautiful camellias I had ever seen. Then to top it off, he took me over to see Howard Rhodes's greenhouses and his yard full of camellias. It was truly an amazing day if you are a camellia lover. I've been back to see Randolph numerous times and every time I go, I learn so much more about camellias.

Another place I like to visit is Tommy Alden's nursery (County Line Nursery) in Byron, Georgia. Tommy has many greenhouses full of beautiful camellia plants for sale, and it's very entertaining to hear him talk about the varieties he has, their history, etc. I also buy fertilizer from him each year that's a custom blend he has formulated for camellias. It seems everybody has their own way of fertilizing, but the fertilizer I get from Tommy works well for me.

I don't think I could finish this discussion of who and what has motivated me to grow camellias without mentioning the American Camellia Society Headquarters in Fort Valley, Georgia. The headquarters is a testament to the hard work and support that members and staff have contributed to the ACS for many decades. My favorite areas there are the gardens and the camellia plants themselves. The hundreds of specimens of so many different varieties are a joy to see. There is also a well-stocked camellia gift store, and they usually have a good variety of some of the most popular camellia plants for sale. If you are a camellia person, it is well worth the visit there!



**Massee Lane Gardens**

So, after the “bug” bites you, the question is “What camellias should I plant?” That question seems to stay on the mind of camellia people regardless of whether they are just starting to plant a few varieties, or whether they have grown camellias for many years and already have hundreds of plants. The \$64 question is always “What variety should I plant next?”

I think, when we first start to acquire camellias, we often think about the beautiful plants we saw at our parent’s home, or our grand parents’ home, or possibly at a friend’s home, and we try to get some of those plants. I know that I also spent many hours looking at camellia books and seeing a picture and deciding “I’ve got to get that camellia!” Another way I would decide to get a certain variety was if I saw it at a nursery that carried camellias. However, the most convincing ways I decided on a plant was when I would tour a large grower’s garden/greenhouse like Randolph Maphis, Howard Rhodes, or my old friend Lewis Wright. The other convincing way to decide on your next camellia(s) is to attend a camellia show. There you get to see hundreds of flowers grown by some of the most knowledgeable people around.



**Randolph Maphis Admiring Blooms at the Tallahassee Camellia Show**

But what if you have been around the block a few times, seen many different flowers, and been to lots of camellia shows, and now you want to start entering blooms in shows? The “competitive” bug can bite you, and then you want to know quickly and definitively which ones will win. So, it obviously helps to look at the



**Frank Houser Var. — 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



**Melissa Ann 4<sup>th</sup> Place**

winners' tables at camellia shows, and see what's winning. It also helps to look at journals like the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Journal to also see what's winning at the shows.

I thought it would be interesting to apply a little math to the question of what to plant, especially if you want to enter blooms in shows. So, I looked at the ACCS website at the results from the past few years and added up the points won by each cultivar, for all the shows, and recorded those points in a spreadsheet so I could quickly see which flowers were the big winners. I only included cultivars that won at least 40 points in at least one of the past four seasons. There were no results for 2020-2021 because the shows were cancelled due to the pandemic.

I expected Frank Houser and Frank Houser Variegated to be the top two on the list, and they were both in the top three, with Frank Houser Variegated in the number one position. But, Fircone Variegated came in at number two, and Frank Houser was number three. Another surprise to me was that Melissa Anne was number four (ranked higher than I expected). Melissa Anne has the luxury of competing in two major classes in the shows ("Large Japonica" and "White") and that helped it be one of the top points winners. You might want to look at the spreadsheet on the proceeding pages and see if you see anything that surprises you!

So, it's interesting to me to hear other people talk about how they got started growing camellias and how they decide what camellias to grow. We all seem to have our unique stories about these things. But there's one thing I think everyone agrees on, and that is for some reason, people involved in growing camellias, visiting camellia shows, and attending camellia meetings/conventions, are some of the nicest people you will meet. And that makes it even more enjoyable when you grow these beautiful flowers and then share them with a group of friendly people that seem to enjoy them as much as you do.



**Fircone Var. — 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



**Lauren Tudor  
5<sup>th</sup> Place**



**Spring Daze  
6<sup>th</sup> Place**

## From ACCS Website

Name	Class	Year 2019-20	Year 2018-19	Year 2017-18	Year 2016-17	Total Points
Frank Houser V.	Ret. V. Lrg.	92	61	129	109	391
Fircone Var.	Jap. Min.	76	40	100	101	317
Frank Houser	Ret. V. Lrg.	57	52	91	114	314
Melissa Anne	Jap. Lrg. & White	22+60=82	30+45=75	23+40=63	20+65=85	305
Lauren Tudor	Jap. V. Lrg.	52	68	57	82	259
Spring Daze	Hyb. Sm.	82	48	41	73	244
Star Above Star	Species	56	61	44	54	215
Black Magic	Jap. Med.	44	62	47	55	208
Freedom Bell	Hyb. Sm.	34	60	63	30	187
Edna Bass V.	Jap. V. Lrg.	46	36	53	50	185
Royal Velvet V.	Jap. Lrg.	51	33	39	62	185
Julia	Hyb. Med.	40	37	45	62	184
Sweet Jane	Hyb. Mini	46	45	49	38	178
First Blush	Hyb. Med.	48	35	35	54	172
Mona Jury V.	Hyb. Lrg.	30	58	18	66	172
Dancing Blaze	Hyb. Med.	29	42	59	33	163
Cile Mitchell	Hyb. Lrg.	26	50	44	37	157
Mary Fischer	Jap. Lrg.	41	41	32	38	152
Les Marbury	Jap. Sm.	23	52	32	45	152



## From ACCS Website

Name	Class	Year 2019-20	Year 2018-19	Year 2017-18	Year 2016-17	Total Points
<b>Lady Laura</b>	Jap. Med.	39	25	14	69	147
<b>Red Hots</b>	Jap. Sm.	53	16	28	49	146
<b>Ville de Nantes</b>	Jap. Med.	22	28	64	31	145
<b>Holy Pure</b>	Ret. Lrg.	30	43	23	42	138
<b>Dixie Knight Sup.</b>	Jap. Med.	23	38	28	47	136
<b>Royal Velvet</b>	Jap. Lrg.	43	21	28	43	135
<b>Dick Hardison</b>	Jap. Med.	19	27	68	20	134
<b>Valentine Day V.</b>	Ret. Lrg.	40	34	26	28	128
<b>Tudor Baby</b>	Jap. Sm.	27	42	25	21	115
<b>Ray Gentry</b>	Ret. V. Lrg.	32	43	38	0	113
<b>Elaine's Betty</b>	Jap. Med.	14	19	26	53	112
<b>Adrienne Boueres</b>	Ret. Med.	43	34	16	0	93
<b>Cherries Jubilee</b>	Jap. Med.	19	19	10	45	93
<b>Hulyn Smith</b>	Ret. Lrg.	16	49	24	0	89
<b>Miss Lillian</b>	Jap. Sm.	0	0	50	26	76
<b>Betty Ridley V.</b>	Hyb. Med.	30	44	0	0	74
<b>Mary O'Donnell</b>	Ret. Med.	0	44	0	21	65
<b>Ruta Haggmann</b>	Ret. V. Lrg.	43	0	0	0	43
<b>Jim Smelley</b>	Ret. V. Lrg.	0	41	0	0	41

# Pruning Camellias

by: Mark Crawford

**T**o Prune or not to prune that is the question! When I give presentations at camellia clubs, garden clubs, and to Master Gardeners pruning camellias is one of the most commonly asked questions. Unlike many other landscape shrubs that grow fast, camellias are slow growing. Slow growth in the nursery is one reason camellias are more expensive than most other plants and is the reasons they are not used by landscapers unless the client specifically asks for camellias. Newly planted camellias rarely need any pruning and can go several years with just tip pruning to improve shape. If you are going to show camellias in competition then you need to trim so plants are open in the middle so flowers can open unobstructed by leaves and branches.



**Huge Overgrown Camellia**

Most questions come from people that purchase older homes that have camellias growing to the second floor of the house and in many cases have not been pruned in many years. In this case camellias have very large branches that require a saw or sometimes a chain saw to prune. Large old camellias are usually full of pine straw or leaves accumulated over several years, have scale on the underside of leaves, are covered with algal leafspot on the upper sides of leaves, and might have lichens growing along the trunk and branches. These plants need rejuvenation pruning where they are cut down to four feet from the ground and most of the small side limbs and leaves are removed.



**Example of Rejuvenation Pruning**

Why four feet? If you prune higher, most of the regrowth will be in the very top of the remaining limbs and it will look leggy. If you go lower it encourages undesirable growth close to the ground that is more susceptible to scale. When you cut large primary limbs you should cut at an angle so that water does not sit on the cut surface. Apply a wound paint to cuts two inches and larger. You can prune off all the side limbs and leave a skeleton of the plant or

you can leave a few limbs with leaves. In many cases you will be removing 90% of the plant which will stimulate healthy new growth.

Soon after pruning you should fertilize your camellia using 10-10-10 or something similar. Within a month you will see green buds growing directly out of the stems and by fall a healthy full camellia with beautiful shiny green leaves. Apply a fungicide to the new growth to prevent dieback on the young tender stems and leaves. You will not have any flowers in the first year following this type of pruning. The following year you can thin out some of the new growth to shape the plants for the best floral presentation. This type of pruning works for sasanquas and japonicas but is not suitable for reticulatas. Retics like to be trees and severe pruning can injure them. Hybrids like Frank Houser can be moderately pruned where some foliage remains intact.

Smaller plants getting too tall can be topped to the desired height and branches thinned and cross limbs removed to improve air circulation. This will improve disease resistance and flowering.

My experience is that casual gardeners are hesitant to try rejuvenation pruning because they think they will kill the plant. My response is to try it with one plant and see what happens. In most cases where I have followed up they have a good experience and then prune their remaining large camellias to a more manageable size.

## Please Note:

**The proper time to perform rejuvenation pruning is immediately after blooming and before any new growth begins in the spring.**



**New Growth Emerging**



**Pruned Plants Two Years Later**

The photo above shows new growth emerging from the primary branches that remain. New growth starts about 6 - 8 weeks after pruning depending on the weather conditions and first appears as small bumps along the stem. This is to reassure the readers that this does not harm the plant if it is done at right time that is immediately after blooming and before any new growth starts in the spring. This assures that all the stored reserves in the roots will support the new growth on a much smaller plant.

Another pruning issue occurs when the center of an older camellia is jammed packed with limbs and leaves. Light is blocked from the inside of the plant and thus no blooms form or if they do they can't even be seen inside this dense area. Also, this crowded dark area is a perfect breeding ground for scale, dieback, and overall poor plant growth. If a grower does not wish to prune as drastically as discussed earlier but needs to open up the inside of the camellia I have found removing large inside branches a perfect solution (see photo at right).

Of course, every camellia grows differently and sometimes the top needs to be removed to bring balance to the plant. Remember to prune back to 4 ft height (see photos below). And, finally if you are not happy with the variety of your camellia you can graft new varieties on the pruned limbs as shown in photo at bottom right.



**Inside Branches Removed**



**Left: Before Overgrown Top Pruned**

**Above: After Top and Select Inside Branches Pruned**

**Above Right: Plant Pruned and Grafted at the Same Time to Change Variety**

# *The Love Story of Mark Allen & Camille*

By J. D. Thomerson

***There are 50 different camellia varieties contained in this story.  
Can you find all 50 of them?***

Camille wanted everything to be perfect for her adorable boyfriend, Mark Allen. Tomorrow she planned to kick off an unforgettable day by singing happy birthday to her sweetie pie at moonlight bay beach with all their friends. Her desire was to do something beautiful for Mark Allen and to thank him for agreeing to serve as Grand Marshall of the re-opening of the Ray Gentry Memorial Bridge that connects Frank Houser Boulevard to the Mona Jury Freeway. This bridge had been destroyed in the Georgia fire of 1979. Mark Allen was hesitant to accept the Grand Marshall duties as it meant he would have to miss his niece, Mellissa Ann, playing the role of little red riding hood in the Margaret Davis Elementary School fall play. But, Camille said he was just darling and that she would give him a special birthday gift. The anticipation of this gift from his dreamboat girlfriend caused him to at first blush at the thought of some midnight magic but then to quickly agree.

Camille had planned this birthday party in early autumn and she wanted to keep the party a deep secret until it was show time at the October affair. Camille dressed in a mini pink debutante style dress and hoped that Mark Allen would not be able to look away. She was a bit embarrassed to showboat herself like a drama girl but she wanted Mark Allen to have pleasant memories of this special day.

Instead of birthday cake, raspberry flambé and cherries jubilee would be served with raspberry ice to drink. Mark Allen said her dress reminded him of a china doll figurine of a beautiful ballet dancer. After midnight, when all the other guests had gone home, Mark Allen asked Camille to be his bride. Camille was so overjoyed she shouted hallelujah and whoopee.

For their honeymoon the couple went to the Georgia National Fair and rode the Ferris wheel and ate lots of cotton candy. Camille knew marriage was their destiny ever since the couple went to the high school junior prom together. She remembered that night when Mark Allen called her his little babe when pinning the waterlily corsage on her lady in red prom dress. The rotating twinkle star light fixture at that dance lit up the buttons 'n' bows on her dress. At that moment Camille knew this event was just a prelude to wedding bells that would come later when Mark Allen would become her forever flame.

## ACCS STATE DIRECTORS

State	Name	Term
Florida	Chuck Ritter	2019-2022
Florida	Howard Rhodes	2019-2022
Georgia	John Newsome	2022-2023
Georgia	Sandra Jones	2022-2023
Maryland	Richard Mohr	2022-2023
North Carolina	John Fields	2022-2023
North Carolina	Bob Fox	2022-2023
South Carolina	Paul Cloessner	2019-2022
South Carolina	David Elliot	2019-2022
Virginia	Bob Black	2019-2022
Virginia	Toni McKenna	2019-2022
At Large	Jim Campbell	2019-2022

### Answer Key for the Name that Camellia Quiz

1. Miles Beach	9. Jim Smelley	17. Walter Homeyer	25. C.M. Gordy
2. Lillian Gordy	10. Sherrida Crawford	18. Richard Mims	26. Cheryl Thompson
3. Hulyn Smith	11. Janet Smith	19. Mr. Patrick	27. Dinh Swanson
4. Randolph Maphis	12. William Khoury	20. Bev Ritter	28. Elaine
5. Annabelle Fetterman	13. Chuck Ritter	21. Kay Thomerson	29. Howard Rhodes
6. Nedra Ann Mathis	14. Coach Mathis	22. Jim Campbell	30. Mary Rhodes
7. Jasper Dewey	15. Marilyn Maphis	23. Celeste Richards	31. Warren Thompson
8. Sandee Khoury	16. John Newsome	24. Mr. Bob	32. Pat Pinkerton

# Join NOW!

(Membership is a great gift for friends and family!!!)

## The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

We are a society that wants more members to help us promote the science of Camellia culture by exchanging knowledge and ideas with Camellia specialists, provide information about shows and social events and join us at our annual meeting the third Saturday in September each year. Annual dues are \$15.00 per year for singles or couples. A membership entitles you to a journal published in January, May, and September. To join, send your check and personal information for receiving communications and journals to:

**ACCS  
Fred C. Jones  
2056 Dunn Road  
Moultrie, GA 31768**

---

### Membership Form

**ACCS Annual Dues, Good for 1 Year from Date of Payment  
Single or Double \$15.00**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone # (include Area Code):** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Unnamed Japonica Seedling  
Grown & Photographed by J. D. Thomerson**