

Atlantic Coast Camellias

Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

Volume 70

January 2021

No. 1



Camellia Japonica 'Oscar B. Elmer Var'

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**A HUGE ACCS THANK YOU
Goes to RICHARD MIMS
For His 17 Years of Service to ACCS as Journal Editor**

From the Cover

‘Oscar B. Elmer Var’

Originated by Jack Mandarich, Menlo Park, California in 1978. A very large japonica, dark velvet red and white var., semi-double. Size is 6 inches across x 3 inches deep. Mandarich also registered other great varieties such as Dobro, Paul Haskee, Mary O’Donnell, Marilyn Maphis, Pete Galli, Jack Mandarich, Lee Roy Smith, Mackenzie Green, and many others.



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We Are Very Saddened to Hear of the Passing of

**Dinh Swanson
and
Sally Simon**

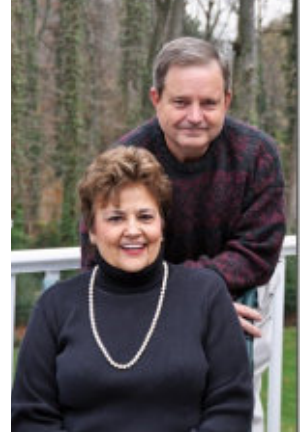
Our Prayers and Thoughts are with Their Families

This Journal is Dedicated to These Two Outstanding ACCS Members

A YEAR NOT LIKE ANY OTHER

by President of ACCS - Randolph Maphis

In the last Presidents Message, “A Spring Like No Other”, we looked at the unusual Spring of 2020. Now that the year has ended, I think that it is safe to say that all of the year of 2020 was a “Year Not Like Any Other.” It was a year that we all endured. It certainly was not liked. All of the events of the ACCS year were canceled. Church, parties, vacations, and many other social events were canceled or modified to keep a social distance from friends and relatives. Since most of us did not get sick from Covid I guess it worked. Who really knows what to believe, when not all the “experts” can agree on the best methods to stop Covid 19. This year the ACCS Board decided to keep the same slate of officers until we meet again to select and nominate new officers.



ACCS members should remember to pay their dues for the 2020-2021 year. Please remember to send your check to Fred Jones because it costs a lot of money to print the ACCS Journal. And one more thing, did you pay your ACS dues? You can always call Masee Lane and give them a credit card to pay your dues.

As noted last journal, 2020 did have a few bright points. The grafting season was really great. The first of December a number of camellia growers got together at the Maphis homestead and dug over 300 grafts. A number of these grafts will be donated to Masee Lane to be a part of the new Leon and Lois Silver exhibit. Plants will be repotted into decorative pots and rolled in the new building as they bloom. That way, no matter how cold it gets the public can easily see camellia blooms at ACS



Pictured left to right: Howard Rhodes, Dick Hooton, Mark Crawford, Konrad Hooper, Steve Lawrence, Randolph Maphis, and Bill Hightower. J. D. Thomerson was present and took photo.

headquarters. About 100 plants will be donated to the Tallahassee National Cemetery to be part of the camellia Garden there. Of course, some plants will be sold, and others given to friends. The men that helped with the digging of the grafts came from all over Florida and Georgia. Local Tallahassee Camellia Society members Howard Rhodes, Steve Lawrence, and Bill Hightower joined Dick Hooton from Pensacola and Konrad Hooper from Crystal River, Florida. Georgia was represented by Mark Crawford and J. D. Thomerson.

The practice of getting together and digging grafts started years ago when Hulyn Smith assembled a team of workers at Clarence and Lillian Gordy's in Ocala, FL to dig his grafts that Gordy and Charles Nichols had grafted for his greenhouses. After he passed in 2010 we dug Hulyn's grafts that he had grafted in Valdosta, Georgia. We grafted a couple of years at Hulyn's and then transferred grafting to Tallahassee to



Grafting "Get Together" of 2010 at the Gordy's Garden in Ocala, FL

obtain plants to auction off at the 2015 ACS National Convention in Tallahassee. The practice continues in Tallahassee every year.

Another bright spot in 2020 was the registrations of many new camellia cultivars by Pat B. Johnson of Cairo, Georgia. Pat has over 10,000 camellia seedlings (No Lie.) The last couple of years, Pat has registered over 110 new ones. Many are japonicas such as Florance's Fancy Formal, Aileen Wade Chastain, Jasper Dewey, and Melanie Chaveaux. Others are retics such as Gabriel Maphis, Steve Lawrence, Gayle Lawrence, Alex Hinson, Jane Hinson, and Bill Hightower. Some new non-retic hybrids are Jim Campbell, Mark C., and William Khoury. William Khoury and Mark C. (For Mark Crawford) are Camellia Azalea seedlings. Other seedlings to be registered soon will be Tommy Alden and Brenda Alden. See the next page for photos of these varieties and several are also shown later in the article J. D. writes about what he did over the summer. For more details about these varieties go to the ACCS and ACS websites.

The American Camellia Society has a number of Zoom programs that many of the local camellia Societies have been using to have virtual camellia programs during these trying times. There is a list on the ACS web site to choose from, and many diverse topics can be chosen. You talk to the presenter, establish a date and contact Matthew Israel at ACS, and he handles setting everything up for your zoom meeting. I have done a couple as has Mark Crawford and Tommy Alden. I have a couple more zoom meetings scheduled between now and the middle of January. Setting everything up for the program is easy if you have a society member that has used Zoom for meetings before, or Richard Buggeln can talk you through the process for Matthew. Richard is handling this for ACS.

In 2021, WE ARE going to have a spring meeting and a convention in the Fall. Only a hurricane will be able to stop us getting together for the ACCS Convention. Until we see each other in 2021 remember to pay your dues, stay safe, and enjoy all the pretty flowers that you spent so much time nurturing in 2020. It has been so warm that flowers have been more beautiful than in the past few years.



Aileen Wade Chastain



Alex Hinson (Retic)



Steve Lawrence (Retic)



Pat B. Johnson (Retic)



Alma Bellamy Shatz



William Khoury
(C. Azalea Hybrid)



Gayle Lawrence (Retic)



Bill Hightower (Retic)



Mark C. (C. Azalea Hybrid)



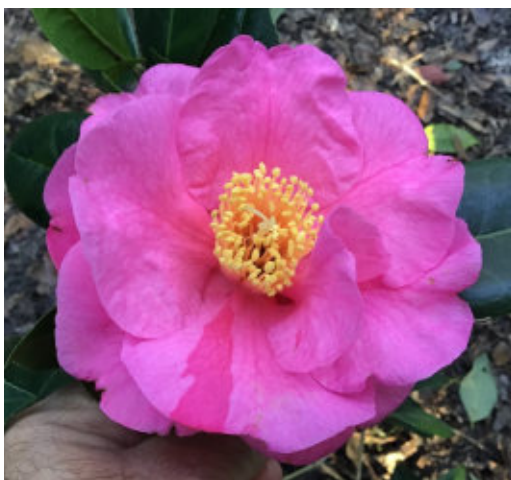
Melanie Chavaux

I've Been Thinking – What I Did Over the Summer

By J. D. Thomerson

Since the Corona Virus has put a halt to all the camellia shows this fall it has left your new ACCS Editor with a challenge right off the bat – what to discuss and share with all you camellia addicts. After much thought I remembered many of my teachers in elementary school asking students to write a report to share with the class entitled “What I Did Over the Summer.” Well, due to the Corona Virus I can honestly say – not much. But, perhaps you will be interested in some camellia road trips that I did have the good fortune to be a part of this past summer.

The first big trip began early one July morning at 6:30 AM – why do all camellia trips start so early? Mark Crawford and I head to Ocala, FL and home to the Gordy



Mary Carol



Wally B. Var

Camellia Garden on our annual summer trip to gather camellia cuttings to root. For those who do not know the Gordy's property has two new owners. Mary Engstrom bought the extra side lot and garden in order to use the paths between all the camellias for trail riding with her horse. This has worked out very well the past 5 years as the horse keeps the pathways clear and Konrad Hooper (camellia grower from Crystal River, FL) volunteers to spray for weeds and do basic upkeep on the hundreds of camellias. Mary has learned much about camellias over the past few years and knows she owns a camellia treasure and tries to maintain the property. She has even named two camellias — one in honor of her father (Wally B.) and one for her mother named (Glory B.) Mark Crawford variegated Wally B. and let me tell you it is something special. Recently, a Reticulata seedling growing on her new property was registered for Mary under the name Mary Carol.

Mark and I get to Ocala and meet up with Konrad and enjoy about three hours of collecting camellia cuttings of things for Mark to root and sale but also several rare varieties we want for our own collections. Before leaving we all go next door and meet

with the new owners of the Gordy property that contains the Gordy's house. We all observe the changes that have been made to this section of the camellia garden. Over the past three years 600 very large older camellias have been moved using huge spade diggers and relocated to their new homes at Wilmot Gardens on the University of Florida campus. Approximately 200 camellias were not taken and will be kept by the new owners of the Gordy's house to enjoy. Mark and I collect some more cuttings from this side of the property and decide that we wanted to go visit the Wilmot Gardens to see the status of all the camellias that had been moved. We say goodbye to Konrad and then Mark and I head back north to Gainesville and Wilmot Gardens.

We arrive on the UF Campus and meet Dr. Charles Tisher who is the Director of Wilmot Gardens and former Dean of the Medical College at UF. He lets us eat our Wendy's takeout burgers inside in the AC in the garden headquarters right next to the gardens. We had a wonderful time as Dr. Tisher gave us our own personal tour of the complete gardens full of all kinds of fantastic plants in addition to the camellias. We inspected the camellias moved from the Gordy's property about a year earlier and out of the 100 or more plants moved a year or so earlier during round one of moving the plants only about 10% are dead or struggling. Considering the huge size of the



Wilmot Gardens

camellias we were very pleased with how well they were adapting to their new location. The gardens are very well landscaped and have paved walking paths going in various directions with numerous benches. Being right in the heart of the Florida campus students walk the paths often and enjoy the beautiful gardens. It is a great location to relocate the Gordy's camellias for future generations to enjoy. Before leaving Mark and I got several cuttings of some recently hybridized very nice coleuses and headed back home towards Valdosta.



Lake Erhai Pearl



Yellow and Purple

The next outing about two weeks later was to Tallahassee, FL to get camellia cuttings from Randolph and Marilyn Maphis and Howard and Mary Rhodes. Again, Mark told me to be at his house around 6:30 AM – why so early? We always enjoy visiting these two amazing gardens. Randolph always has all the interesting new varieties from all over including all the new John Wang seedlings and pretty much every Reticulata known. Howard and Mary also have wonderful large plants of new and older varieties all over their large property that are big enough for Mark

to get many cuttings to root. We stop at Randolph’s place first and as always he is in the back yard working. He eagerly shows us how well his 500 grafts (yes 500) are doing in his raised beds – as normal he had 90% plus success. He then quickly (Randolph does nothing slow) shows us hundreds of Kumagai Nagoya camellias that will be next year’s understock. If you graft camellias or want to learn how to graft them and are not familiar with how Randolph grows Kumagai rootstock in raised beds and the procedures he uses when grafting then you need to speak with him – his methods have had tremendous success for the past 10 years. Then, we proceed



Randolph’s Grafting Beds

to get the dozen or so varieties that Mark wants to get from Randolph to root. As normal, Randolph gives us several more that he says we really “need” including many of the latest ones from John Wang (see photos at top of this page for two examples.)

As we finished our visit with Randolph, Mark starts talking about what a wonderful camellia the variety Virginia Lynn is that Bill and Linda Nichols from Cottonwood, AL



Virginia Lynn



Pink Kiss

recently registered. Well, Randolph tells us that it is only an hour or so further to the Nichols garden and he knows all the backroads to get there. So Mark and I tell Randolph to sit tight while we head basically next door (actually about two streets over) to get the cuttings we want from Howard and Mary Rhodes. The Rhodes have an amazing garden under huge tree canopies with the healthiest camellias you will ever see. We enjoy our tour of their garden and gather cuttings of a dozen or so varieties including one named 'Pink Kiss' that Howard and Mary have recently registered and a very nice striped seedling that Mark and I keep telling Howard he needs to register. We invite Howard to join us on the next leg of the trip to Bill and Linda Nichols garden as Howard typically joins us on these camellia trips but he had to decline this time. So Mark and I said goodbye to Howard and Mary and went back and picked up Randolph for the journey to the Nichols garden in Cottonwood, AL.

Mark and I had never been to Bill and Linda Nichols garden so we looked forward to the trip although we knew we were going to be pooped by the time we ever got back to Valdosta. Mark was very excited to get many cuttings of 'Virginia Lynn' as he says it sells on sight when people see the bloom. I am kicking myself now that I did not take some photos of the Nichols garden – let me just say it is exceptional. Hundreds of nice healthy camellias of outstanding varieties growing beneath all kinds of tall unique trees. Bill was a Forester and has an amazing collection of large hardwood trees. He tested Mark and Randolph to name several of the varieties – and, he stumped them on a couple but overall Mark and Randolph passed the test. In addition to the



My Linda



Daddy's Girl

FL. Yes, it really does exist but don't blink or you will miss it. I wish now that I had taken a picture of the welcome to Two Egg sign. Mr. Paul Gilley who registered 50 or more camellias and named them for all his family and relatives and even one for his dog lived right down the road from Two Egg. Randolph had many stories to tell about Mr. Gilley – he was quite unique but he sure could grow some fine camellias. We finally got back to Tallahassee and Mark and I dropped off Randolph and then drove the remaining hour and fifteen minutes back to Valdosta. It was a wonderful day but boy was I pooped when I got home.

The last summer trip I want to share with you was perhaps my favorite – Mark could not go on this one but wanted Randolph and me to collect camellia cuttings for him from Mrs. Pat Johnson's garden in Cairo, GA. Pat calls her garden "Woodland Manor." This is a site that you have to see to believe. Thousands and I do mean thousands of seedling camellias growing as far as the eye can see in all directions from her house deep in the woods on the outskirts of Cairo, GA. Pat is a joy to visit – she is so full of energy and love of camellias and has a wonderful sense of humor. She and Randolph give each other a hard time but in a nice humorous way. I met Randolph at Pat's house at 8:30 AM which meant I only had to leave Valdosta at 7:15 AM instead of the normal 6:30 AM.

'Virginia Lynn' variety we got cuttings of three other varieties: 'Darby', 'Daddy's Girl', and 'My Linda' that the Nichols have registered as well as a few others we could not pass up.

Perhaps as enjoyable as visiting with Bill and Linda Nichols and their garden was the trip from Tallahassee, FL to Cottonwood, AL and the return. The route between the two cities goes right through Randolph's childhood home of Grand Ridge, FL. Randolph had all kinds of tall tales to share with us about folks from this neck of the woods – some a bit too spicy for me to put in print. Also, I was thrilled to finally see the famous town of Two Egg,



Pat B. Johnson



Jim Campbell



Florence's Fancy Formal

Randolph gets up around 4:00 AM every morning so I knew he would not be late – he often has side bets with people on how late I will show up to some of our camellia trips. I surprised him this time by getting there on time.

Randolph and I got cuttings of many (25 plus) of Pat's new camellia registrations. Including varieties recently named for such famous folks as Carl Randolph Maphis, Gayle Lawrence, Steve Lawrence, Alex Hinson, Jane Hinson, Florence Crowder, Sandee



Jasper Dewey

Khoury, and Jim Campbell. And, one extra special large dark red variety showing black edging with an anemone center and rows of outer guard petals. I saw it blooming this past winter and told Pat that I really liked it – she said “well then, why don't I name it for you”. I said “OK, you can name it Jasper Dewey” for which she quickly responded “No, I'm not going to name a camellia Jasper Dewey.” I said “but that's my name” – Pat said “no it isn't –your name is J. D.” I had to explain to her what J. D. stands for and then we all had a big laugh.

Other varieties we collected cuttings of included a new camellia azalea seedling possibly to be named William Khoury and many others named for camellia folks and Pat's family members. As always, before Randolph and I left we joined Pat inside for coffee and a desert – this time pecan pie. We signed her guest book as everyone has to do that visits Pat and enjoyed watching dozens of humming birds outside the window that are always flying around Pats humming bird feeders during the summer months.

So, that's what I did over the summer. So glad camellias offer so many activities and road trips to enjoy seeing wonderful people and sharing our love of camellias. Please share your stories with me so I can include them in future ACCS Journals.

Additional Photos of Outstanding Camellias Registered by Pat Johnson



Sandee Khoury



Carl Randolph Maphis (Retic)



Isabell Lewis



Jane Hinson (Retic)



Nolan Lewis



Jennie J. Lewis

GEORGIA FIRST LADY CAMELLIAS

By Mark Crawford, Valdosta, GA

Naming camellias for people is a very common practice as a way to honor people and as a tribute and memorial for family and friends who have passed away. In 1966 the naming of a camellia for the wife of the Georgia governor began when Betty Foy Sanders was named by Fred H. Smith in Statesboro, GA. Several years passed when in the 1990s a camellia was named for Rosalynn Carter by the horticulturist at the American Camellia Society (ACS). This particular camellia was found to be very difficult to grow and often declined after going through the winter. Mrs. Carter actually chose this camellia but after several years was determined to be unacceptable for cutting propagation due to its high mortality rate. Since it had never been officially registered with ACS it was abandoned. The situation was explained to Mrs. Carter and she was able to choose another seedling to bare her name. The seedling had already been successfully grown from cuttings that grow into very attractive plants. It was registered in 2018 by ACS.



Rosalynn Carter

Prior to this I was contacted by ladies from the Garden Club of Tifton, GA who were searching for 3 seedling camellias to name. They called me asking if there were any unnamed seedlings by Hulyn Smith, a famous camellia grower in Valdosta, but by that time all had been named. I suggested there was another collection of unnamed seedlings in Ocala, Florida that were worthy of naming. I called the owner, Lillian



Sandra Deal

Gordy, and asked if she would allow the garden club to name 3 of her seedlings and she was very generous and said yes. This all occurred in February of 2015 so I told the ladies we needed to travel to Ocala that week and choose 3 seedlings since the collection was in full bloom. Three garden club ladies picked me up in Valdosta and we drove to Ocala and found 3 suitable camellias. At the time, I did not know that one was going to be named for Sandra Deal the current First Lady of Georgia. The other 2 were named for former Tifton garden club members Ruth Vickers Fullwood and

Bessie Tift. A few months later I was invited to a reception for Mrs. Deal in Tifton where she was presented with a photograph of the camellia to be named for her. That winter I grafted camellia 'Sandra Deal' so that a larger plant would be ready for planting the following winter at the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta. In May of 2017 Mrs. Deal held a reception at the Governor's Mansion to dedicate the new First Lady Camellia garden. At that time, there were only 3 camellias named – Sandra Deal, Rosalynn Carter and Betty Foy Sanders.



Betty Foy Sanders

After all the guests had left Mrs. Deal expressed her gratitude for all that had been done. She then made a subtle request to me by saying "wouldn't it be nice if all the first ladies that lived in this house had a camellia named for them". I said I would work on it. I selected a group of seedlings from the collection of Clarence and Lillian Gordy that I had been evaluating in my nursery and sent photos to Mrs. Deal. Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Perdue were able to select their camellia from the photos and Mrs. Deal choose the others so that all the flowers were different. The camellias were registered in 2018 and planted at the Governor's Mansion that winter. In November 2018 a new governor was elected and I contacted Mrs. Kemp's secretary if she would like a camellia named for her. Of course, she said yes and selected a seedling originating in Cairo, GA from a photograph. Camellia 'Marty A. Kemp' has been grafted and will be planted at the Governor's Mansion in the fall of 2021. This makes a total of 10 Georgia First Lady Camellias now named.

In the winter of 2019 a complete set of First Lady Camellias which now include Mary Perdue, Marie Barnes, Shirley Miller, Mary Beth Busbee, Virginia Maddox, and



Mary Perdue



Marie Barnes

Elizabeth Harris were planted at the Fullwood Garden Center in Tifton and at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains. The first Baptist Church of Gainesville, GA planted a full set in honor of Mrs. Deal where she attends church. Another set is to be planted at the Georgia State Botanical Garden in Athens this fall. Two first lady collections are being planted in Columbus, GA — one at the Old Town Camellia Garden and the other at the historic Wynn House that is currently under construction. Plants are available for other gardens upon request from Loch Laurel Nursery in Valdosta.



Mary Beth Busbee



Marty A. Kemp



Virginia Maddox



Shirley Miller



Elizabeth Harris

Camellia Growers of Prominence: Fred and Sandra Jones

By John and Dinh Swanson

Fred Jones was born in Barwick, GA. At the age of four, he helped his grandmother root camellias by hauling sand in his wagon from a ditch to her rooting area. A few years later, he began helping his father graft by holding the flashlight while grafting at night. His father would get home from work after dark and graft the scions which were received in that day's mail. Fred soon graduated to helping align the cambium layers of the scion and rootstock. His father preferred to cut the rootstock using a hacksaw because it had a fine-tooth blade. After grafting, the stump was painted with a mixture of melted bees wax and paraffin. During camellia season, Sunday afternoons were frequently spent visiting gardens of camellia growers. Betty Sheffield's garden in Quitman, GA was a favorite as well as camellia nurseries in Thomasville and Moultrie.

In 1974 Fred's parents acquired Camzalea, an 11 acre camellia and azalea garden. It was built by his mother's cousin, Dr. S. E. Sanchez, Jr., on his return from World War II and named Camzalea because he intended to plant both camellias and azaleas. In the 1990's Fred researched and located over 800 camellia varieties planted at Camzalea.

Fred has degrees in Physics and Math and a Master's in Business. Upon graduation in 1969, he joined the Navy as an aviation officer candidate at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL. He completed his Navy career serving active and reserve duties for 27 years. In 1979 Fred acquired stock in the Barwick Banking Company and began a 41 year banking career.

Sandra Jones was born in Moultrie, GA and grew up on the family farm in the Funston community of Colquitt County. She became a Registered Nurse in 1966 upon graduation from Georgia Baptist School of Nursing. She worked in hospitals, a doctor's office, and as Director of Nurses at a nursing home. When Sandra and her first husband Clyde Yarbrough opened a pharmacy in 1976, Sandra opened a flower shop within the Pharmacy. After Clyde fired her repeatedly because her flowers were interfering with his prescriptions, she went back to school and obtained a B.S. in Education from Valdosta State University and began a career in teaching. Master's and Education Specialist's degrees followed while working as a teacher, literacy coach, and reading consultant.

Fred met Sandra in 2002 following the death of her husband. They began their courtship with a visit to Camzalea and she fell in love with Camzalea, camellias, and



Fred and Sandra at the ACCS Convention

Fred (not sure in which order.) Up until that time her knowledge of camellias was very limited. She knew camellias were flowers and there were red, white, and pink ones. When Fred asked her to marry him at Thanksgiving in the garden at Camzalea, how could she say no?

When Fred and Sandra married, he had been a long-time member of the American Camellia Society. He had visited a couple of camellia shows but preferred just spending time at Camzalea looking at blooms, writing descriptions, and listing the varieties planted there. He acquired invoices



Fred at Work at the Sizing Table

from Dr. Sanchez's purchases of over 700 plants and scions. Thus, the Camzalea list of camellias was born. Currently, Fred estimates there are over 2,000 japonicas, hybrids, and reticulatas, not counting the sasanquas.

After retiring from teaching in 2005, Sandra began spending more time at Camzalea trying to help identify plants that had lost their tags. Fred had inherited a wonderful library of camellia encyclopedias and picture books including three of George Gerbing's along with the International Registry that they used extensively. When Fred asked her if she wanted to go to Ocala, FL in 2006 for the ACS convention, she readily agreed. She was now hooked on camellias!

The ACS Convention in Ocala was a turning point for both of them. They toured Chuck and Bev Ritter's and the Gordy's camellia gardens! Sandra had never seen such beautiful flowers. She made a long list of varieties she wanted to add to Camzalea and they purchased 34 new camellia plants while at this ACS Convention.

Their involvement in camellias came to a screeching halt in 2008 when Sandra was faced with breast cancer and treatments. During recovery time, she brought several camellia reference books to their home near Moultrie, GA and was intrigued by the history of many varieties while adding the dates of registration to Fred's list.

In the ACS Journal Fred noticed the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society was holding a convention in Charleston, SC. When asked if she wanted to go, Sandra eagerly agreed even though she was still on Chemo at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL. They only knew Roger and Ellen Vinson from the Ocala convention but soon met Buck and Tyler Mizzell, Gary and Bonnie Serpas, John Newsome, Lynn Holly, Jim Pruckler, and Miles and Brenda Beach. Sandra's hair was at least one inch long and Lynn instantly knew what she was going through. This was the most welcoming and kindest group of folks Sandra had ever met.

While at this convention, they toured Magnolia Gardens. Miles Beach drove Sandra around in a golf cart so she could enjoy the tour. During the tour he talked about some of the antique varieties that were at Magnolia and he mentioned the

rarest one they had, Arijishi. When we rounded the curve, he pointed it out and Sandra turned to Fred and said, "We have two of those at Camzalea, don't we?" She suddenly realized how special Camzalea really was with its 2,000 camellias. Upon leaving the convention, their car was packed with new camellia plants purchased at the famous Buck 'n Bill auction. These were the first plants they planted at their home outside Moultrie, GA. Sandra entered a HER2+ vaccine trial conducted in Winston Salem, NC and they began planning visits to coincide with the annual ACCS conventions where they continued purchasing plants for their home. They now have approximately 350 plants in their home garden and these produce almost all of the blooms they take to shows.

Now being members of both ACS and ACCS and fully hooked on camellias they decided to join the Valdosta Camellia Society. However, after several years of having to drive over one hour to attend Tuesday night meetings they desired to form a new camellia club closer to their home that would meet on Sunday afternoons. Camellia interest in the Quitman, GA and South Georgia area was high so the Wiregrass Camellia Society was born. Fred and Sandra serve on the board of directors and Sandra has held key positions during 2018-2020 including Chairperson of the Boston, GA Show. Camzalea has also frequently served as the venue for many Wiregrass Society meetings.

Another ACS convention brought Florence Crowder and her interest in historical varieties into the Jones lives. Florence soon visited Camzalea and got cuttings that were sent to Europe. She asked the Jones to join the International Camellia Society and to serve on the Preservation committee. They also joined the Gulf Coast Camellia Society after attending one of their conventions. Fred serves on the ACS Board currently as Secretary of the ACS Trust Board. He also serves ACS as a member of both the Preservation and Camellia Trail committees. Sandra is co-chairman of the ACS Camellia Trail committee and serves on the Preservation, Technology, and Grounds Committees. Yes, you might say they are actively involved with camellias. Sandra and



Fred both really enjoy camellia conventions and learning more about camellias. They state that the educational programs they have attended at ACS, ACCS and GCCS conventions have been invaluable.

Sandra and Fred's first experience in a camellia show was when they entered three blooms at a Valdosta Camellia show -- but they were not winners. The next year, they tried again by entering a Kagirohi that was just a beautiful and flawless bloom

Sandra (second from left) Judging at a Show

along with a couple of others but the results were the same, still no stickers! Sandra noticed several visits by groups of judges would look at it and shake their heads! She didn't know why. It was then she decided they needed to become judges so they could learn how to enter blooms. After taking the novice judge course from Howard Rhodes, she realized that her beautiful bloom had received no recognition because she had left a beautiful round bud on the stem! Now they usually exhibit and judge blooms at from ten to thirteen shows per year.



Fred and Sandra with Best Bloom in Show

Jerry and Carol Selph have been Sandra and Fred's most influential mentors. After talking them into joining a local camellia club they took them under their wings and not only encouraged them to enter blooms in shows but shared Jerry's "Atomic" gib and taught them the steps to take when packing blooms. Fred frequently calls Jerry to get advice on chemicals to use when spraying. Without their support and friendship, Sandra and Fred would have never learned how much they enjoy camellias and the camellia world. Tommy Alden is another frequently consulted mentor on growing camellias and selecting and securing prize winning varieties. Tommy and Brenda Alden are both valued by Fred and Sandra as close friends and best camellia buds! Also influential and often called upon are Chuck Ritter, Nancibeth Shealy, J. D. Thomerson, Mark Crawford, Howard Rhodes and Randolph Maphis. In addition, Fred has gained much knowledge from experienced growers such as Warren Thompson, Geary and Bonnie Serpas, Buck & Tyler Mizzell, and William Khoury.

Fred says his favorite camellia variety changes frequently. His initial favorite was "Margaret Jack" also known as Finlandia variegated. Unfortunately, the plant which was alive in 1959 at Camzalea has subsequently died. Other favorite varieties over the years were Mr. Sam, Coral Pink Lotus, Queen Julianna (Southern Charm), Empress (Lady Clare), and Imura. Pink Perfection and Adolphe Audusson Variegated also make his list. After visiting Middleton Place in Charleston, SC and reading the history of Captain Martin's Favorite, it becomes a favorite of Fred's as well.

Sandra's favorite bloom at Camzalea is a hybrid named Polaris. It has won Best in Show for them three times. Drama Girl, Grand Slam, Midnight, Valentine Day, and the grafted Frank Houser are also favorites of hers. At the Moultrie home, Holy Pure is Sandra's over all favorite. She also loves Les Marbury Blush, Cherries Jubilee, Valentine Day variegated, Black Knight variegated, Lauren Tudor, Frank Houser Var., and Ferris Wheel. In fact, one could say that the last one Sandra picked is her favorite!

Fred and Sandra have won numerous Gold and Silver Sweepstakes and Best in Show awards at camellia shows all over the southeast. However, they both agree that meeting other camellia growers and sharing experiences is the most enjoyable part of

the camellia hobby. They especially enjoy all the social gatherings involved with shows and camellia conventions. They have learned how generous and kind camellia growers are whether they are local, regional, national, or international. The camellia world is surely blessed that Fred and Sandra Jones chose camellias as a hobby. As the title of this articles states, they definitely are “Camellia Growers of Prominence.”



Polaris — Wins Best in Show

Camzalea Interesting Facts

- Camzalea has several camellias uncommon in southern gardens, including: Raggedy Ann, Queen Julianna, California, Sun-Up Var., Circus Girl, Geisha Girl, Hallmark, Gibson Girl, Monticello, Ann Sothern, Jacksoni, and Lauren Bacall. Agnes of the Oaks, one of the first 100 registered by ACS and patented by F. A. Godchaux, of Mahatma Rice, from Abbeville, LA in 1949 still grows at Camzalea.
- The camellia variety Tomorrow originated in nearby Thomasville, GA. Camzalea has a “Tomorrow Hill” containing Tomorrow, Tomorrow Var., Tomorrow’s Dawn, Tomorrow Crown Jewel, Tomorrow Tuxedo, and Tomorrow Park Hill.
- “El Diablo Rojo” -- a beautiful crimson red large chance seedling of Don Mac that had been growing at Camzalea for years was recently registered by the Jones.
- Betty Sheffield lived close to Camzalea so there are several Betty Sheffield varieties at Camzalea. They include the original Betty Sheffield, Betty’s Beauty, Betty Sheffield Supreme, Betty Sheffield Coral, Betty Sheffield Silver, Betty Sheffield Var., and Funny Face Betty. There were more but the original Betty Sheffield bed was destroyed by a fire in the 1979.
- Fred’s grandmother gave her nephew, Dr. S. E. Sanchez, Jr., about twenty Chandleri Elegans she had rooted to plant at Camzalea. Most of these 20 plants are still living and are huge magnificent bushes and highlights throughout the garden. Added later was a C. M. Wilson which is a sport of Elegans. Also, Hawaii, a sport of C. M. Wilson, and it’s sport, Kona.



Panoramic Photo of Grounds at Camzalea

Name That Camellia (answers on page 34)



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____

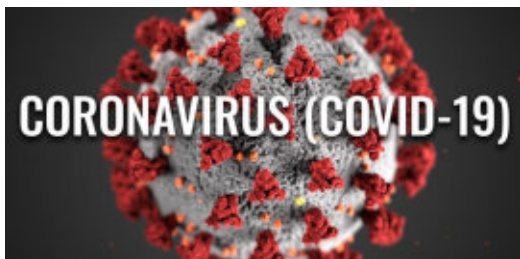


6. _____

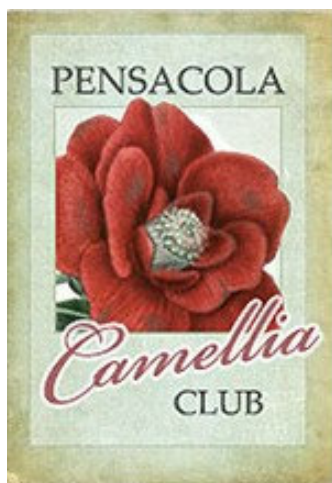
The Face of a Camellia Show During The Pandemic

By Randolph Maphis
Photos by Christy Hankins

Everyone in the camellia world was wondering what would happen to camellia shows when the 2020 camellia show season began. Then as the first camellia shows were scheduled to begin in Perry, Georgia and other South Georgia cities they found out that almost every Camellia Society or Club had cancelled their shows. Camellia judges that tend to be a little more life experienced were staying close to home to make sure they could be around for camellia blooming season in 2021 and 2022. They talked on the phone and shared photos of blooms on the computer through E-Mail and Drop Box. They held Society and Club meetings through Zoom that were arranged through The American Camellia Society or a computer literate local Camellia Society member.



The camellia nursery people like Tommy Alden at County Line Nursery and Mark Crawford at Loch Laurel Nursery experienced the 2020 camellia season in a vastly different way. When the spring of 2020 began, people stayed close to home and began to grow vegetable gardens and flower gardens. Local plant nurseries quickly sold out of vegetable seeds and vegetable plants. People also took a renewed interest in flower gardening. The retail nurseries and big box retail plant outlets sold most of the plants they had on hand. In the fall, retailers began making large orders for camellia plants from growers like Mark Crawford and Tommy Alden. I am sure other camellia nurseries experienced the same increase in camellia plant orders. Local camellia societies also bought a lot of plants to sell in the spring of 2021 as the “News” told us that hopefully a vaccine would be available at the end of the year or early next year.



One of these clubs buying large orders of plants was the Pensacola Camellia Club. They used the “club van” to haul large orders of camellia plants to Pensacola. The Tallahassee Camellia Society also bought an unusual large amount of camellia plants. They doubled their usual number of camellia plants they bought to sell at the annual camellia auction.

The face of camellia shows looked pretty bleak for the 2020-2021 blooming season. Then, judges got an invitation from The Pensacola Camellia Club to their annual Camellia Show in December. What? A camellia show being held at the local garden center in Pensacola. This had to be wrong. But after a phone call to Dick Hooton in Pensacola the news was confirmed. They were

having a camellia show after all. Several judges started gibbing and planning on taking a few blooms to the show. We started gibbing about six weeks before the show like we always do, but the very warm weeks before the show caused most of our blooms to open after only three or four weeks. The blooms really were fantastic looking. The Pensacola people believed the show would be a small one since many judges that usually bring large numbers of blooms had decided that the risk of contracting the virus was just too great for them to take a chance with their health.

The dinner for judges was held at a great Italian Restaurant named V-Pauls in downtown Pensacola. V-Pauls is owned by local club member Paul Bruno. The food was excellent as it always is at his restaurant.

The Pensacola Camellia Show was held on December 12, 2020 at The Garden Center on 9th Avenue. The face of this camellia show was very different. The entry area was not spacious, but everyone had plenty of room to enter their flowers without being elbow to elbow like it usually is at camellia shows. Several club members carried the blooms to the staging area in the exhibition room. In the main room the blooms were organized for easy placement by Dick Hooton, Skip Vogelsang, and a couple of helpers. Then 3 or 4 club members placed the blooms on the show tables. By organizing the blooms into different categories the placement people were kept apart to ensure they did not have a lot of close contact.

When the judging began it was easy to distribute the judges around the room since there was 6 judges and 6 novice judges. The judging went really smooth and was finished early.



Bloom Entry Area



Main Exhibition Room



Plant Sale Area



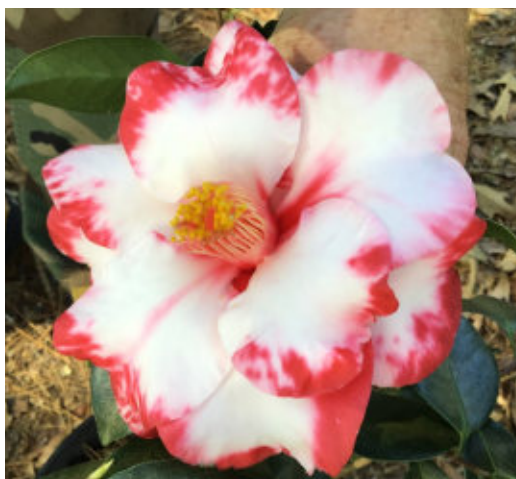
Judges: Joe Holmes, Dennis Hart, & Hunter Charbonnet



Relaxing: Randolph Maphis & Jim Smelley



**Dr. Clifford Parks Var: Best in Show
Outdoor Won by Hunter Charbonnet**



Mary Ann Lawrence Var.

The most amazing thing of the whole show was what was going on outside the show. The Pensacola Club had set up a tent outside to sell plants. People came early, from everywhere, to buy camellia plants. Lots of plant customers bought wagon loads of camellias and never entered the show. The Club sold 167 plants for \$4,670.00. They sold the plants purchased from Mark Crawford and Tommy Alden. They sold the plants they air layered locally and all the plants they had grafted at Jim Smelley's greenhouses in Agricola, Mississippi. I guess people are tired of staying inside the house and want to get outside to work in the yard. Planting camellias is a great outside activity.

When the judging was over it was time to relax and check to see who were the big winners. Everyone socialized, rested, and watched the circus going on outside at the plant sale. Randolph Maphis won the best protected bloom with Miss Tulare and Hunter Charbonnet won the best outside bloom with Dr. Clifford Parks Var. Jim Smelley won the sweepstakes for the protected blooms. His blooms were simply fantastic even though he did not cover his greenhouses this year. Growers did not cover their greenhouses this year. I guess it is of no use to dress up with nowhere to go. But wait, Pensacola was the place to be on December 12, 2020.

The show also contained three relatively new blooms, Mary Ann Lawrence Var, Virginia Lynn, and Jennie J. Lewis. The plant sale had 5 plants of Pat B. Johnson's cultivar Jennie J. Lewis, and 5 plants of Bill and Linda Nichols' new introduction Virginia Lynn. As soon as people saw these blooms, and learned the plants were outside, the plants were sold.



Past ACS Presidents Jim Campbell & Roger Vinson



Best Tray of 3 Protected (Dick Hardison) won by Randolph Maphis

Everyone that participated or saw the show declared it a success. There were over 950 blooms, and over 250 people came to see the show. The quality of the blooms displayed was outstanding because the deep south had not experienced any freezing nights. The local Pensacola Club gives the show prizes to the Marine Reserve Toys for Tots Program. They buy toys to give away to kids that really appreciate having a toy for Christmas. Judge Roger Vinson and Jim Campbell were in attendance and both worked like dogs to make sure the show went well. No one worked harder than Dick Hooton and Skip Vogelsang. They do an outstanding job of organizing and running a camellia show. The Pensacola Club had about 20 members work the show and they picked up 20 new members too. New members during the pandemic. Who would have guessed? No one got sick by participating in or viewing the show because they were careful to wear masks and keep their distance from each other. I guess you can do anything if you want to bad enough. Congratulations Pensacola Camellia Club.



Marine Core Reserve Members & Toys for Tots



Hard Workers: Skip Vogelsang, Dick Hooton, & Christy Hankins

"Don't Forget 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.

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 am in my mid fifties 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 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.

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,

**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**

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.

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 Raspberry Flambe, Dragon Fireball, and Spring Daze are Non Retic Hybrids. There are not many medium sized Reticulata's but Mary Elizabeth Dowden and Elizabeth B. Hunt are two excellent ones. Several of the blooms have been introduced fairly recently such as: Dragon Fireball (2008), 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 in the Southeast, USA. Hulyn Smith from Valdosta, GA registered Henry Parrish 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 and the variety Marie Crawford was registered by Miss Lillian Gordy of Ocala, FL. Robert Cale from Hueytown, Alabama registered Magic City back in 1965. Jim and Elaine Smelley of Moss Point, Mississippi registered Elaine's Betty. Dixie Knight Supreme was registered by Wheelers Nursery in Macon, GA back in 1961. Margret Davis was registered in Australia and folks in California registered Spring Daze, Dragon Fireball, Raspberry Flambe, Herme, Anita, and Nuccio's Jewell. Like this article stresses, "Don't Neglect the Medium Sized Camellias.

MEDIUM SIZED JAPONICA PICTURE GALLERY



Marie Crawford



Spring Daze



Nuccio's Jewell



Mary Elizabeth Dowden



Walker Lewis



Minnie Ruth Var



Henry Parrish



Herme



Lady Vansittart



Raspberry Flambe



Magic City



Margaret Davis



Anita



Dixie Knight Supreme



Dragon Fireball



Ella Joe



Elizabeth B. Hunt



Elaine's Betty

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Answers to Guess That Camellia:

- (1) Happy Birthday
- (2) Look Away
- (3) Royal Velvet
- (4) Louise Fitzgerald
- (5) Betty Sheffield Supreme
- (6) Ray Gentry Var

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, September 2020 — August 2021
Single or Double \$15.00**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone # (include Area Code): _____

E-Mail: _____



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