



**Camellia Columns
AUGUST 2017**

A publication of the Virginia Camellia
Society
P.O.Box 15574 Chesapeake, Virginia
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**A Message from the Virginia Camellia
Society**

Dear VCS Members,

Here we are in the dog days of summer. Hope all are staying cool and keeping an eye on their potted camellias. As the new 2017-2018 session begins, I wish to thank all our members for their continued support of the Virginia Camellia Society. We wish to thank past-President Kathy Taylor-Hanson for her time and services as President. Congratulations Kathy and Gary on your first grandbaby! Fulfilling the position of President is Malia Huddle. We are pleased to have her back and look forward to the upcoming year.

Maria Stephenson
VCS Newsletter Editor

From Our Newly Elected VCS President

Hello Camellia Friends,

I am honored to once again serve each of you and our organization. I would like to thank the VCS Board for placing their confidence in me. Please know that I will do my best to represent you and VCS as we work together to spread our knowledge and love of camellias.

We know that propagation and cultivation work best when we utilize shared knowledge, experience, and a team approach. This is true for plants and organizations as well. I value the input, support, and guidance that I have received from so many of you as I still consider myself fairly new to VCS. I look forward to cultivating new friendships as we grow our organization and fulfill its purpose.

Malia Huddle
VCS President

**GREAT BRIDGE BATTLEFIELD AND
WATERWAYS HISTORY FOUNDATION**

We are very excited to inform you that Phil Johnson has been elected President of the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation. The Virginia Camellia Society looks forward to supporting his efforts with the Foundation. Please visit this historic park and visitor center in Chesapeake, VA.

PANSIES? THEY'RE DELICIOUS! WITH CAREFUL PICKING, FLOWERS CAN END UP ON YOUR PLATE

You may have seen an article in The Virginia-Pilot by Lorraine Eaton in March 2017 with the above title.

The author heralded edible flowers; and the Camellia made the list. And I am not talking the Camellia Sinensis. Here's an excerpt:

"Don't eat the daffodils. Or the azaleas.

Those are toxic.

But go ahead, eat those purple and yellow pansies from the garden. Crunch into a handful of camellia petals and the red bud, too.

Camellia

They're members of the tea family. Petals have an assertive crunch and a bit of tannin. Be sure to taste before adding to salads, as the pink ones can be slightly sweet and the red ones shockingly bitter."

*By Lorraine Eaton
Courtesy of The Virginia-Pilot
Mar 22, 2017*

Ladies and gentlemen. After the release of this article, a couple of our board members put it to the test. And this is what Phil Johnson had to say:

"Yesterday while I was at Camellia Cove at the Chesapeake Arboretum, I tried several different colors of blossom. The article said the pink ones were sweet. I have a different opinion. They all taste like grass to me... "

So for now, enjoy your camellias, be it in the ground, in a container, or in a vase. I am going to wait until someone breeds the petals to taste like wine or chocolate.

GROWING CAMELLIA SINENSIS

Camellia sinensis can be grown in most moderate zones in the United States. Zones 7, 8 & 9 provide the most suitable outdoor climates although, it can be grown in greenhouses and/or protected areas in colder climate zones or used in containers where you could protect it from severe freezes.

Camellia sinensis will perform well in areas in bright light or full sun with balanced nutrients and plenty of water.

Species Name: Camellia sinensis (Large Leaf - White Flowering cultivars)

Growth Habit: Upright, bushy growth

Bloom Time: Fall

Maintainable Height: 3-4' or larger

Soil Conditions: Moist, well drained acid soil

Light Conditions: Full sun to part shade

Uses: Containers, landscape & garden plants, screens, hedges, foundation plants Although there are many varieties of Camellia sinensis, the large leaf tea is the most common.

Most of these plants will produce white flowers, although some have been known to have pink tones to full pink flowers. In the fall of each year, the tea plant is covered with small blossoms and later the next spring and summer, you probably will see small seed pods on your tea plants.

Courtesy of the American Camellia Society

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY'S SPRING SHOW

We had a good turnout at the Virginia Camellia Society's Spring Show on March 11, 2017. The sale of the camellia plants was a success! We completely sold out by 4pm. Thank you all who volunteered and participated and Bob Black for the beautiful and varied selection of camellias from the Bennett's Creek Nursery.

To see all the Camellia show results for the 2016-2017 season across the Atlantic Coast and Gulf Conferences, click on the following link: [ACCS Show Results - 2016-2017](#)

If you missed the March show, fret not, the next show is November 14, 2017. Hope to see you there.

NEW SPRING SHOW AWARD

The Virginia Camellia Society has a new award - The Doug and Sally Simon Award. This award has been endowed by Dr. Winston Goudin to honor Doug and Sally Simon for their longtime service to the Virginia Camellia Society and the American Camellia Society. This award will be presented only at our spring shows for best bloom of heritage reticulata, unprotected. The recipient of the Doug and Sally Simon Award will receive a cash prize of \$50.

VCS SPRING WORKSHOP REPORT APRIL 8, 2017

We had another near-perfect day weather-wise for our annual spring workshop in the Hofheimer Camellia Garden on April 8, 2017. We had twenty people attend. Employing a different format this year, most of the teaching was done by the experienced individual members on a one-

to-one basis. After pairing the novices with experienced members, this group proceeded to an area of NBG where there were old camellias destined for removal and practiced air-layering on them. In the meantime, the remainder of the attendees applied air-layers to forty camellias in the HCG. There was brief discussion of topics involving camellia culture, such as diseases and fertilization. We finished just as the pizza arrived at 11:30.

SUMMER PICNIC

The May 17, 2017 picnic at the Norfolk Botanical Garden was chilly with moments of wet. But despite the weather, a good time was had by all. This year in lieu of raffles, we had door prizes of the following plants generously donated by Bob Black and Bennett's Creek Nursery: Cile Mitchell, Night Rider, Grand Marshall, Royal Velvet and Silver Lace. Much thanks to Bob Black and Bennet's Creek Nursery for sharing these beautiful specimens.

MONTHLY CARE REMINDERS FOR YOUR CAMELLIAS

August

Water during long dry spells. Ground should be moist, not wet! A reliable indicator is if your Azalea leaves are beginning to droop, you need to water.

September

Begin Gibbing early in the month. DO NOT gib more than 4 or 5 bloom buds per plant at a time. Repeat every other week through November. Begin debudding, leaving 1 bud on the terminal end of a branch.

October

Continue Gibbing. Check Air-Layers. They can usually be taken off of the mother plant by now. Put them in pots with an appropriate growing medium and leave them in pots for 1 year. Fertilize your landscape plants with 0-0-22.

Materials used in this article courtesy of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

The air layers by the Virginia Camellia Society are kept in pots for 2 years.

VCS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017

Watch for up-dates , cancellations, etc. on our website vacamelliasociety.org or in the VCS newsletter, the garden sections of the VA-Pilot and Daily Press. (Please be sure we have your correct, current email address.)

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017

**9:00 A.M. - NOON
VCS AIR LAYER HARVEST
Hofheimer Camellia Garden
Norfolk Botanical Garden**

NEXT BD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 @ 6PM AT THE NGB, HOLLY ROOM. Members are welcomed to attend and observe.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

**10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
VIRGINIA BEACH MASTER GARDENERS
FALL FESTIVAL
Hampton Roads Agriculture Research & Education Center
1444 Diamond Springs Rd., Virginia
Beach 23455**

VCS AIR LAYER AND PLANT SWAP

*Date & time has been rescheduled from 10/7/2017, 9 to 12. to its New Date and Time: **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017***

2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**at the Fred Huette Center, Norfolk, VA
Bring a snack or dessert to share and your own drink.**

We will meet at the Fred Heutte Center for the plant and air layer swap; as well as asking for volunteers to plant some donated camellias to replace the ones they lost in the last storm.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017

1:00 P.M.

SET-UP FOR FALL SHOW & PLANT SALE

BAKER HALL & HOLLY ROOM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

VCS FALL CAMELLIA SHOW AND PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017

6:00 P.M.

**VCS CHRISTMAS PARTY
Fred Huette Center, Norfolk, VA.**

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VACANT

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If you would be willing to serve in either of the vacant positions, please contact the VCS President.

From Maria, your newsletter editor:

Do you have any VCS stories or history to share or other information that you would like to see included in the newsletter?

If so, please email the information to me at mgs23455@gmail.com so that we can continue to make this publication an informative and enjoyable resource for our members.



The VCS MISSION STATEMENT

The Purpose/Mission of the Virginia Camellia Society is to learn and to promote the growth and propagation of the beautiful camellia through meetings, workshops, and through the presentation and sponsorships of annual camellia shows. (VCS 2004)