



**Camellia Columns
DECEMBER 2017**

A publication of the Virginia Camellia
Society
P.O.Box 15574 Chesapeake, Virginia
23328

A Message from our VCS President

Hello Camellia Friends,

I hope this issue of the Camellia Columns finds you well and enjoying the beautiful fall weather. VCS has been busy these last few months with our Airlayer Harvest Workshop, our Plant Swap & Sasanqua Planting at Heutte Center, and our Fall Camellia Show and Sale.

I hope you enjoy the camellia show photos included in this newsletter. We had 300+ blooms entered. As you can see, there were some beautiful specimens. For the third time now, we sold out of plants by early afternoon. This is truly a testament to the health and beauty of the plants we receive from Bob Black and Bennett's Creek Nurseries. Thank you Bob!

I'd also like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the show a success. Your dedication, commitment, and service make leading this group a pleasure. Please know how much I appreciate your support, attention to

detail, and hard work. You're an incredible team.

Our VCS year will wind down with Gathering of the Gardeners and our annual Christmas party. Details on both events are included in this newsletter. I hope many of you will choose to attend one or both events. We always have a most enjoyable time.

Our first event of the new year will be the Virginia Flower & Garden Expo at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Volunteers (Perk-free admission in return for talking camellias and selling airlayers) are needed for shifts Friday, January 26th through Sunday, January 28th. Please call or email me if you'd like to work this event. The theme is, "What Color is Your Garden." They expect over 100 vendors. I'm sure it will be spectacular.

Looking farther ahead to 2020, I'd like to thank Peggy Troyer for agreeing to lead our convention planning team. Please see her article in this newsletter. We will need your ideas and lots of helpers to make the convention a success.

I look forward to seeing you at our events. If I can be of service, answer questions, or help in any way, please let me know. I wish you all the best as the holiday season approaches.

Malia Huddle
VCS President

PHONE TREE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Great communication is key for every successful volunteer organization. Please call or email Malia if you would be willing to help call members as needed with event reminders. It would be fabulous to split the membership list up between three or four callers so we can keep our members in the know.

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY'S FALL SHOW

Our very own Virginia Camellia member, Stephanie McSweeney won for Best Bloom - Novice with Maiden's Bloom.

Sandra Godwin won the Carol Lee Southerland Award with Autum Delight.



Click on the link below to see the results of the 2017 Fall Camellia Show.

<http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/2017-2018/VCS%20Show%20Results%20-%20110417-Norfolk.html>

MONTHLY CARE REMINDERS FOR YOUR CAMELLIAS

December

A good time to spray for scale and insects if problems are observed. Most of all - ENJOY YOUR CAMELLIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS - OFTEN CALLED THE WINTER ROSE!

January

Resume Gibbing. Pick up, remove, destroy all dead blooms. Put them in trash bags and then into your trash container. DO NOT put these dead blooms into your compost pile. A good time for grafting.

February

A good time for grafting. Continue picking up those dead blooms. A good time to attend Camellia shows, visit Camellia gardens, and capture blooms with a photo! March You may begin to prune plants that have stopped blooming, or wait until April. Also a good time to capture your blooms with a photo!

Materials used in this article courtesy of the Tidewater Camellia Club

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRUNING SHEARS

Pruning shears are scissors that you use on plants and trees. They are used to prune small branches of shrubs, harvest fruit/vegetables, and shape unsightly shrubs. This garden tool is use by professional gardeners, landscapers, farmers, and horticultural specialists. They use them to cut back dead parts of the plants, removing diseased sections, and to dead head a plant.

Even if you do not own a large garden but just have a few plants and trees in your yard, having a good pair of pruning shears can come in handy. Just like the professionals, pruning is a necessary part of garden and yard maintenance.

Depending on what type of pruning shears you have, they can come in handy for cutting other items such as tie downs and zip ties.

Types of Pruning Shears

There are several different types of pruning shears to choose from and few more to choose from in sub categories. Choosing the right pruning shears for the job will make this task much easier for you.

Pruning Shears - Pruning shears, also called hand shears, are used to cut through the small stems and branches. You can cut through small branches up to 3/4 inches in diameter. These type of pruners are good for pruning roses, vegetable plants, and many other small plants.

Bypass Pruner – are a type of hand shear have an sharpened upper blade that “passes by” the unsharpened lower hook when the cut is completed. This type of cut causes less crushing damage to the plant. With the way the lower hook is designed, the cutting edge can be placed in a way that the crushing side of the pruner is on the part of the plant to be discarded. The bypass pruner are the easiest pruners to use and is recommended for new gardeners still learning to make proper pruning cuts to their plants and trees.

Anvil Pruner – have a single sharp blade that come down on a heavy flat edge. Think of a knife on a cutting board. These pruners can cut through thicker, woody branches with even pressure on each side. Since the anvil pruner makes contact on both sides of the branch, the bark on the living side of the cut branch is damaged and leaving the plant exposed.

Thinning Shears – are small scissors or scissor like pruners designed to cut delicate, small plant structures, and shaping plants. Generally used to cut spent flowers and Bonsai trees.

Lopping Shears - Commonly called loppers, are used to cut branches and stems up to 1 3/4 inches in diameters. If you have small trees such as crape myrtles that have larger branches, these shears will come handy. Loppers have larger handles that will give the user more leverage and reach to make it easier to cut those larger branches. These pruners are available as anvil pruners and bypass pruners.

Hedge Shears - Also called hedge trimmers or hedge clippers, are only good for trimming up hedges. The blades are long scissor-like blades that come with long handles. The scissor-like blades make long and straight cuts that could through several branches at the same time. Hedge trimmers are used to shape new growth on formal shaped hedges. You would use these types of pruners on a hedge of boxwoods.

Written by James
Courtesy of The Basic Garden DIY

PRUNER MAINTENANCE

Clean and oil the pruner at the end of every gardening day. Use a dry cloth to remove debris. Remove sap from the blades with fine steel wool or soapy water, then dry the blades. Add light household or mineral oil into the space between the blade and hook.

Written by Anne Marie Van Next
Excerpt from Selecting & Maintaining Hand Pruners – Oct. 2011

**CHESAPEAKE MASTER GARDENER
INTERN PROGRAM - 2018**

Chesapeake Master Gardener Volunteers Wanted! Training will begin January 2018 through March 2018. If you reside or work in the City of Chesapeake and interested in becoming a Chesapeake Master Gardener, please visit the website at <http://www.cmgv.org> or contact Mike Andruczyk at (757) 382-6348.

**2020 ACS CONVENTION
Needs Your Help!**

We are going to be hosting the national convention for the American Camellia Society in March of 2020!

There's lots to do, and I need your help! Please consider the following!

A Theme for the convention? Every suggestion is welcome! Enter often!

Printed matter/advertising. We need a beautiful program/registration info./schedule, and advertisers to help defray some of our expenses. The brochure will be printed in the ACS magazines, available online, and in folks' registration materials.

Activities We have some great ideas, but need help with dinner speakers from the area, any exquisite gardens we could fit into the schedule.

Hotels – Where should our headquarters be? Can we get a great deal on a hotel or two for the conference?

Transportation – how best to get the attendees where they want to go?

Registration – Who's coming?

Swag Bags and merchandise – What shall we hand these folks that makes

Norfolk shine, and helps them have a pleasant stay? Do we need special items to sell at the Saturday show, and that attendees might like to purchase as souvenirs?

Camellia show and plant sale – yes, this goes on in the midst of the fun!

If something strikes your fancy, or is in your area of expertise, please let me know! Peggy Troyer, cell 210-240-2628, email alkatoma@netzero.com Many hands make light work! A sign-up sheet will be available at the Christmas Party.

**VCS WELCOMES OUR NEWEST
MEMBERS**

- | | |
|---|--|
| Nancy Abel
Norfolk, VA | Susan Bradshaw
Chesapeake, VA |
| Beth Cajiao
Norfolk, VA | Michael Chelednik
Faquay-Varina, NC |
| Sally Main
Norfolk, VA | Steve & Lynn Winter
Virginia Beach, VA |
| William & Tresea
Meyers
Norfolk, VA | Stephanie
McSweeney
Virginia Beach, VA |
| Maria Parker
Norfolk, VA | Lynnette Rohring
Virginia Beach, VA |
| Helene Smith
Chesapeake, VA | Judy Snyder
Chesapeake, VA |
| Michael Millard-Love
Norfolk, VA | |

IN MEMORIAM

- Bill Miller - 03/03/2017
- Laurice Becker -09/15/2016

VCS 2017 & 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch for up-dates on our website vacamelliasociety.org or on our Facebook page. A full calendar of VCS 2018 events will be provided with membership renewal letters in January.

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VCS HOLIDAY PARTY

Fred Heutte Center, Norfolk
Friday, December 1, 2017
6:00 P.M.

NBG GATHERING OF THE GARDENERS

Norfolk Botanical Garden, Rose Hall
Thursday, December 7, 2017
6:00 P.M.

Those planning to attend should R.S.V.P. to malia.l.huddle@gmail.com by December 2, 2017 as we need to provide a count to NBG.

VIRGINIA FLOWER & GARDEN EXPO

Virginia Beach Convention Center
Friday, January 26, 10:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.
Saturday, January 27, 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Sunday, January 28, 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

VCS SPRING CAMELLIA SHOW & PLANT SALE

Norfolk Botanical Garden
Saturday, March 17, 2018
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Blooms must be entered by 10:00 a.m.
Plant sale begins at 10:00 a.m.

VCS BOARD MEETINGS

6:00 P.M. NBG, Room: TBA

January 11, 2018

March 6, 2018

June 26, 2018

September 18, 2018

VCS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

President – Malia Huddle

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757-717-6833 (C)

malia.l.huddle@gmail.com

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Past President – Kathy Taylor-Hanson

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Doug Simon
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Chairperson Telephone Committee:
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Website: Bill Trotter: trotter0@cox.net

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)