



## Camellia Columns

February 2014

A publication of the Virginia Camellia Society  
P.O.Box 6098 Chesapeake, Virginia 23323

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### A Message from the President

Dear VCS Members,

The reprieve from the cold weather was refreshing to me as well as my camellias! I think all of you would say “enough!” with the snow and ice. Don’t be discouraged if your camellias are full of brown buds and half-open blooms, the weather can only get better.

I attended a camellia show in Wilmington N.C. last weekend and I heard a tip from a commercial camellia grower – take a leaf rake to knock off the frozen buds and blooms on your camellias and that may spark enough energy for a rush of healthy new buds to bloom this spring. Also, make sure you rake up the blooms on the ground to prevent pedal blight from damaging your future blooms.

Speaking of camellia shows, VCS has a show of our own March 22, 2014. I encourage all of you to get involved. Volunteers are always needed. You could help with the camellia plant sale or assist the judges with clerking duties – even if it is only for a couple of hours. We have many new members in our society and there is no better way to expand your

camellia knowledge than to volunteer at a camellia show. Come enjoy the fellowship, make new friends and enjoy the beautiful camellia blooms not only on the show tables but in the Hofheimer Camellia Garden too.

Volunteers please contact myself, [tmckenna@cox.net](mailto:tmckenna@cox.net) or Larry Barlow, Camellia Show Chairman, [larrybarlow@cavtel.net](mailto:larrybarlow@cavtel.net) to get involved.

Sincerely,  
Toni McKenna

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### VCS FIELD TRIP TO ELIZABETH CITY, NC TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014

All interested VCS members are invited to join a group of camellia enthusiasts as we visit the camellia garden of fellow VCS member and dear friend, Clay Foreman, Jr. His garden, affectionately referred to as, “The Special Spot,” encompasses over a half acre and is home to over 275 fine mature camellia specimens.

The first camellias came as get well gifts from friends and family during C.B. Forman’s (Clay’s Father) recovery from a serious illness in 1958. The healing power of the camellia was both effective and enduring. As C.B. Foreman’s enthusiasm for camellia’s and fellow camellia lovers grew so did his camellia garden. Prior to his death in 1979, his camellia involvement included exhibiting and judging camellia shows throughout the entire southeast. The finest camellia cultivars of the 1960’s era were incorporated into the garden.

Several years after C.B. Forman’s death, Clay seized the opportunity to purchase “The Special Spot” and continue his father’s camellia gardening tradition. Clay quickly began utilizing Master Gardener skills to restore his father’s garden. Unfortunately, the garden had

sustained several years of neglect after his father's death. Birds and squirrels removed tags. Weeds and vines of all types began to take a strangle hold upon the plants. Through many long days of restoration work and additional plantings

(including many natives dear to Clay's heart), Clay returned the garden to "The Special Spot" status, of which his father would be very proud.

In keeping with his sharing enthusiasm of camellias, Clay has graciously extended an invitation to VCS members to tour the garden on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. One of the goals of the trip is to help identify several of the tag-less camellias. In a show of gratitude, Clay has extended permission to members to air layer camellia specimens which are of interest and appropriate size.

So mark your calendar. Put on your camellia I.D. thinking cap. Gather your moss and foil. Enjoy camellia camaraderie on our field trip to a fabulous collection of camellias in Elizabeth City, NC.

Itinerary:

- 9:00am Depart Bennett's Creek Nursery Suffolk Distribution Center by Carpool
- 10:30am Arrive at Foreman's Camellia Garden
- 12:00pm Dutch Treat Lunch
- 1:30pm Return to Foreman's Camellia Garden for more I.D. and Air layering Work
- 3:00pm Depart for Suffolk
- 4:30pm Arrive Suffolk, Bennett's Creek Nursery Distribution Center

Contact: Bob Black for Sign-Up by Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> or for additional information

Phone: 757-285-4696 Email: bob@bcnursery.com

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## **MONTHLY CARE REMINDERS FOR YOUR CAMELLIAS**

As we head toward the first of March, now is an excellent time to begin plans for grafting and air layering. Due to the severe winter weather, it is doubly important to keep picking up and disposing those wet moldy blooms that have fallen to the ground in order to at least minimize the scourge of petal blight.

Many of our camellias are now, or soon will be, in full bloom. As soon as the plant has ceased blooming, this would be the best time to prune.

Material used in this article courtesy of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Website

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## **A SPRINGTIME PEST – APHIDS**

A common pest that emerges with the warming of spring is aphids. Often called plant lice, these well known insects infest almost all types of plants. Aphids enjoy a "mutualistic relationship" with ants. During the winter, aphid colonies are maintained underground in ant nests. In the spring, the ants will carry aphids with them to seek out new growth on camellias. Once deposited on the new growth of camellias, the aphids will commence injecting their suckers into the plant and suck out nutrition and moisture. The aphids will secrete as waste a nectar-like substance called "honeydew" that ants will then use as food. True teamwork.

Aphids can cause great damage to the new growth by sucking their juices with long feeding tubes. Previously infested leaves

may be curled or crinkled upon opening. The honeydew that the aphids excrete attracts additional ants and promotes the growth of sooty mold.

Aphids are soft bodied, with long legs and antennae. Many species of aphids reproduce asexually, meaning the female can reproduce without mating. A single female may produce from 60 - 100 young before dying at an age of 20-30 days. The young may reach maturity in 6-7 days.

Aphids are attacked by a number of natural enemies including ladybug beetles and small wasps. A heavy stream of water may be used to wash aphids off of young camellia foliage. Another environmentally friendly control method is to use the soap sprays. Insecticidal sprays may or may not be necessary for control of these insects. Aphids are generally a problem only during periods when new growth on camellias is soft and succulent.

Be on the lookout for these pests over the next couple of months. As you have read, within a week a small infestation can become a real problem with your new growth.

Material used in this article courtesy of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Website, the American Camellia Society Website and American Camellia Society 1999 Yearbook

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### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Patricia Casanave  
Matthews, VA

Charles Grizzard  
Norfolk, VA

Kathryn Lambert  
Virginia Beach, VA

Adele Wise  
Virginia Beach, VA

Carol White  
Virginia Beach, VA

### **SPECIAL GUEST ON SHOW DAY March 22, 2014**

**Bill Blair**, Gloucester Master Gardener Volunteer, will be demonstrating "How To Graft Camellias" from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM at Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Camellia Class Room.

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**Cindy Lackore**, Flame work artist and VCS member will have a beautiful collection of glass camellias to sell. These hands sculpted camellias are made by using a natural gas and oxygen torch. Molen glass is shaped and formed by using multiple tools, and of course, many years of practice and the on going evolution of my trade.  
10:00AM to 2:00 PM at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Holly Room

### **LOOKING FOR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE? TRY THE VCS CAMELLIA HOT LINE**

Need some advice on how to care for camellias? Some of the VCS experts would be glad to give advice - their contact information is below:

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Larry Barlow  
larrybarlow@cavtel.net

Sandy Godwin  
757-410-2328 or 757-737-2639  
jgodwin5@cox.net

Howard Warren  
757-484-8825

Winston Gouldin  
twgouldin@cox.net

Pixie Killebrew  
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Mike Andruczyk  
[mikeand@vt.edu](mailto:mikeand@vt.edu)

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**VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!**

Watch for future revised editions, updates, cancellations etc. on our website [vacamelliasociety.org](http://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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**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014,  
1:00PM—3:00PM  
SET-UP FOR SPRING SHOW & PLANT SALE  
NBG Baker Hall**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014,  
8:00AM—4:00PM  
VCS SPRING CAMELLIA SHOW &  
PLANT SALE  
NBG BAKER HALL**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5 2014,  
9:30AM—1230PM  
HANDS-ON WORKSHOP  
NBG HOFHEIMER CAMELLIA GARDEN,  
(Rain date April 12, 2014)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014,  
7:00PM—0830PM  
ANNUAL INDOOR WORKSHOP at the  
Women's Club of Newport News, 461 J  
Clyde Morris Blvd., Newport News, VA  
23601**

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 26 - 27 2014,  
9:00AM—4:00PM  
ANNUAL HERB AND PLANT SALE  
FESTIVAL, at the FRED HEUTTE CENTER,  
1000 Botetourt Gardens, Ghent Square,  
Norfolk 23507**

**FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, MAY 9- 11, 2014,  
GARDENER'S MARKET at NBG.**

**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014,  
6:00PM—8:30PM  
ANNUAL TRAIN RIDE & PICNIC at NBG'S  
PICNIC PAVILLION. If rain--Baker Hall.**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014,  
9:30AM -- 12:30 PM  
HANDS-ON WORKSHOP  
NBG HOFHEIMER CAMELLIA GARDEN,  
Learn how to remove air layers and correct  
planting technique. (Rain date Aug. 30,  
2014)**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014,  
1:00PM -3:00PM  
SET-UP FOR FALL SHOW & PLANT SALE  
NBG BAKER HALL**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014,  
8:00AM -- 4:00PM  
VCS FALL CAMELLIA SHOW & PLANT SALE  
NBG BAKER HALL**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014,  
6:00PM - 9:30PM  
VCS HOLIDAY PARTY  
FRED HUETTE CENTER**

**Additional events will be added as we  
confirm them.**

**All dates are subject to change**  
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**VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY (VCS)  
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, &  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

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**Attention Board Members**

VCS Board Meeting  
April 15, 2014  
NBG, Magnolia Room

**By-Laws Committee: Maria Stephenson**

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**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)**

