



Camellia Columns

January 2013

A publication of the Virginia Camellia Society
P.O.Box 1285 Chesapeake, Virginia 23327

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A Message from the President

Dear Members,
Happy New Year and I hope you all had a fantastic and loving holiday season! Last year was extremely positive for the VCS and 2013 is looking just as promising. As most of us are contemplating our New Year's resolutions, maybe we can fit our camellias into them. This year, I decided to make my resolutions about projects that I have not finished, and there are lots of them. However, I realized that three project are camellia related and I thought some of you might have the same project's waiting for you.

The first and most important project that I have been collecting for the past couple of years is planting the 10 or so camellias I have sitting in my makeshift nursery. I think all of us have at least two camellias, at all times, waiting to be planted. The worst part is that I walk by them almost everyday, and never look at them, until they need to be watered. Procrastination has gotten me again.

The second project I would love to get together before pruning season is to get my tools out and give them a little maintenance. I know I have 1 set of pruners that just recently accidentally spent a forgotten night out in one of our recent rain storms. And I really need to get some oil on those vintage loppers I claim to love so much. Procrastination has gotten me again.

The last project that I have put off for the last couple of years is my composting and fertilization regiment. I am going to fertilize this year with a 8 month slow release fertilizer in April. I am also going to compost in the spring and in the fall. How can I expect great plants if year after year I skip this step? Procrastination has gotten me again.

I hope you can find some space for your camellias this year in your New Year's resolution list. Don't follow my lead and let procrastination keep you from beautiful plants and blooms next season.
Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Marcus E. Jones
President, Virginia Camellia Society

MONTHLY CARE REMINDERS FOR YOUR CAMELLIAS

As Marcus stated in his letter, even though it is cold and dreary outside, don't procrastinate on putting the care into your camellias.

As your camellias bloom through their season, remember to pick up, remove, destroy all dead blooms. This will reduce the probability of petal blight, the scourge of camellias. Put the blooms that have dropped in trash bags and then into your trash container.

DO NOT put these dead blooms into your compost pile, as this action will perpetuate your garden's exposure to petal blight.

After the plant has quit blooming, prune to control interior growth and plant height, before new growth begins. Check pH of your soil and add necessary chemicals to keep in the 6.0-7.0 range - sulfur to lower pH (more acid) and dolomitic lime to raise it (more Alkaline).

Hello fellow VCS members!
My name is Moriah Hults and I am excited to be the new American Camellia Society State Director for Virginia. My job is to promote membership and to act as a liaison between Camellia societies in Virginia, their members, and the ACS. I would like to encourage you if you haven't already done so, to consider joining the American Camellia Society. Currently I am in a National Competition with the other ACS State Directors trying to enroll the most new members. I am signing up on behalf of the society. If we win, we will receive \$200 worth of ACS merchandise, which we can then market for membership incentives and merchandise at our table.

Membership benefits include:

- Quarterly publications of the Camellia Journal, a wonderful magazine, with camellia news, articles on care and how-to's and bright beautiful camellia photographs!
- An annual copy of the American Camellia Society Yearbook (everything ACS)
- Access to member's only content on the American Camellia Society website
- 10% discount of all ACS merchandise at the Massee Lane Garden Gift Shop and online.
- A Copy of Camellia Culture which is a wonderful publication that explains care and propagation methods for camellias.
- Invitations to national meetings, conventions, and educational workshops
- Access to an extensive camellia library, fact sheets and nursery information
- **Your membership card grants you access to the American Horticulture Society Reciprocal Admissions Program which admits you to over 270 gardens, museums and arboretums nationwide!**

Virginia Camellia Society is including a bonus benefit for new ACS members, a complimentary Camellia air layer from the Hofheimer Collection at the Norfolk Botanical Garden.
A single or joint membership holds the same membership cost of only \$30.00 per year.
If you have any questions or would like to help me with my membership goal please feel free to contact me and I will help you in any way that I can! My

email address is moriahhults_vcs_acs@yahoo.com
and my phone number is (757)652-8949
Thank you for your support guys!

Moriah Hults
Hydrangea and Conifer Gardener
Norfolk Botanical Garden Gardener
Virginia Camellia Society Board Member
American Camellia Society VA State Director
www.nbgs.org
www.camellias.acs.org
www.vacamelliasociety.org



VCS Volunteer Opportunities

Who is ready to talk camellias in 2013? The Virginia Camellia Society will participate in the Virginia Flower and Garden EXPO at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, January 25, 26, and 27. This is a great event and allows us to meet prospective members, sell air layers from the Hofheimer Camellia Garden for \$15.00 and enjoy the camaraderie of camellia friends. Don't forget as a volunteer you can enjoy the Flowers and Garden EXPO for FREE. Sign up today! We need at least 2 people for every shift. The Expo is open Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

On February 12, 2013, VCS will host an indoor camellia workshop at Sandy Bottom Nature Park, 6:30 to 8:30 PM. We need members to demonstrate how to plant, prune, graft and show camellias. Once again this is an excellent opportunity for us to meet prospective members, make new friends and provide camellia information.

I encourage all novice and seasoned camellia growers to get involved. It is fun to learn from one another. If you are interested, please contact Toni McKenna at 757-376-2119 or tmckenna@cox.net



**TRANSPLANTING OF MEL AND ELLA
STALLING'S CAMELLIAS TO THE
ALBERT G. HORTON, JR. MEMORIAL
VETERANS CEMETERY**

On November 2, 2012, just before Veteran's Day weekend, a few stalwart members of the Virginia Camellia Society visited the residence of long time VCS members Mel and Ella Stallings. As camellias were so important to Mel and Ella's life, her daughter Belinda allowed the Virginia Camellia Society to transplant 26 camellias from her parent's house to the Albert G. Horton Memorial Veteran's Cemetery.

The Albert G. Horton Memorial Veterans Cemetery is the largest veteran's cemetery in southeastern Virginia. Located outside Suffolk, Virginia, the Cemetery occupies 73 acres of beautiful grounds.

It was a cool and sunny day, a perfect day for some manual labor. We dug up the plants to be transplanted, carefully wrapped the root balls, and drove them in a trailer from the house in Chesapeake to the cemetery in Suffolk. Members that participated in this relocation and planting were: Marcus Jones, Jane Raymond, Fred McKenna, and Howard Warren. Others helping in the effort were Belinda Stallings and Nancy Coulson.

The members of the Albert G. Horton cemetery grounds staff were most helpful by designating new homes for the transplants and helping us with the watering and mulching once the plants were in the ground. Of course, this whole event was made possible through the thoughtful consideration of Mel and Ella's daughter, Belinda.

It was a great outdoor event for VCS members and a fitting tribute to Mel and Ella Stallings. Additionally, this event was a good news story for the camellia world.

At last report (from a mid-December visit), all the transplants were doing great.

**A NOTE FROM THE
ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

For those interested in expanding out in the camellia world beyond the Virginia Camellia Society, there is an opportunity to do so with the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS). This organization was organized September 13, 1980 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Its purpose is to extend the appreciation of Camellias and to promote the science of Camellia culture through the Southeast.

Whether you're a novice Camellia fancier or a veteran Camellia competitor, ACCS is dedicated to providing information, shows and social events that you will find helpful, entertaining and enjoyable. Annual dues are \$15 for individual, or family membership. The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. A membership entitles you to three issues of Atlantic Coast Camellias, the journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. We invite you to join and welcome you as a member.

For more information on the ACCS, please call the ACCS Virginia State Directors, Bob Black or Fred McKenna.

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**VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013
MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!**

Watch for future revised editions, updates, 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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**TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013,
6:00PM – 8:00PM
VCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING at
the NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDENS**

**FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY,
JANUARY 25-27, 2013
VIRGINIA FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW,
at the VA Beach Convention Center.**
Member volunteers needed all 3 days to "talk camellias", recruit new members, sell air layers, attend informative classes, and shop and shop at all the wonderful vendors! 3 to 4 hour shifts and the rest of the day is yours. Volunteers needed for all 3 days and for set-up Thursday and take down Sunday.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013,
6:30PM—0830PM
ANNUAL INDOOR CAMELLIA WORKSHOP
LOCATION SANDY BOTTOM NATURE PARK,
1255 BIG BETHEL RD, HAMPTON, VA**
Free and open to the public.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2013,
9:00AM—3:00PM
YORK COUNTY'S MASTER GARDENERS
HORTICULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA, TAB
HIGH SCHOOL, YORK COUNTY**
Volunteers needed to "talk camellias", recruit new members, Sell Air-Layers, enjoy and learn at the other events at the Extravaganza.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013,
1:00PM—3:00PM
SET-UP FOR SPRING SHOW & PLANT SALE
NBG Rose Garden Hall**
Volunteers needed.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013,
8:00AM—4:00PM
VCS SPRING CAMELLIA SHOW & PLANT
SALE
NBG ROSE GARDEN HALL**
Placement Committee volunteers must have your own blooms entered by 8:30 so you can help others entering blooms. You do not have to be a member to enter camellia blooms in the show. There is an award for novice growers. Judging begins promptly at 10:30. Show not open to public until judging is over (approx. 12:30).

Plant sales will begin at 10:00, not before, and end when all available plants are sold or at 4:00 p.m. VA Camellia Society & Norfolk Botanical Society members show your membership card at NBG gate.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013,
9:30AM—1230PM
HANDS-ON WORKSHOP
NBG HOFHEIMER CAMELLIA GARDEN,**
We will be teaching air layering, pruning, fertilizing/maintenance. Bring pruning shears and sharp knife. You will be volunteering at NBG so be sure to sign in. Free & open to the public. Bad weather date April 13.

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 20 - 21 2013,
9AM—4PM, Sat., 10AM - 4PM Sunday
ANNUAL HERB AND PLANT SALE
FESTIVAL, at the FRED HEUTTE CENTER,
1000 Botetourt Gardens, Ghent Square,
Norfolk 23507**
Information table, air-layering and pruning demo, sell camellia plants from BCWN. Volunteers needed both days.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013,
13th ANNUAL GARDENING EVENT
at CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY**
We can do air-layering demos. Supplies will be needed for demonstrations also. Volunteers needed to "talk camellias", sell plants if available, and enjoy other activities at this event. There is usually a keynote speaker.

**FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, MAY 10- 12, 2013,
GARDENER'S MARKET at NBG.** We sell air-layers that have been held over 1-2 years in NBG's greenhouse, propagated at our workshops. This represents an "Heirloom Collection" of old camellias in the Garden – proceeds go to Hofheimer Camellia Garden at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Volunteers needed all three days, and for set-up and take down.

**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2013,
6:00PM—8:30PM
ANNUAL TRAIN RIDE & PICNIC at NBG'S
PICNIC PAVILLION.** If rain--Baker Hall.

All dates are subject to change
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**VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY (VCS)
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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

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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)

**Chairperson Telephone Committee:
VACANT**

Website: Bill Trotter: trotter0@cox.net

Virginia Camellia Society
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