At the 2012 Congress in Chuxioung, Professor Gao spoke about his work in breeding camellias for the summer months, using *Camellia azalea* syn *changii*.

Professor Gao and his team have developed over 30,000 *Camellia azalea* hybrids, which are grown in pots or in the ground in full sun, since *Camellia azalea* does not grow well in the shade. The
hybrids have 50% of their genes from *C. azalea*, 50% from the other parent so the blooming period is similar to that of *C. azalea* and can last from summer into the following spring. The other gene parents used, either *C. reticulata* or *C. japonica*, give these hybrids good cold resistance so that they can flourish in winter temperatures of -5°C.

It is very apparent from this work that one day we will have camellias blooming all the year round. Here are some of the new images that Professor Gao has shared with us.

*The images from Professor Gao were first published by Southeastern Camellia Society and are reproduced by kind permission of Gene Phillips. Editor.*