Coushatta

Camellia

August 2009 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

Welcome back!

It's been a busy summer, but hopefully the heat will start to subside and we'll get some rain to nourish our camellias. It's time now to look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at our monthly get-togethers, to preparing for camellia shows and plant sales, and to learning more about gardening and about our favorite in the garden – the lovely camellia.

Our first meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 2nd, in the Church Parlor at First Christian Church on Loop 336 W in Conroe.

It's a picnic! Maxine Schank, Sarah Eidem, Renee Bilyeu & Diane Dyer will provide the hot dogs & fixin's. Bring your favorite side, salad or dessert to share. Remember our attendance has grown, so bring enough that everyone can get a taste. CCS will be providing the paper & plasticware, lemonade and iced tea. We have such good cooks in our group, we are sure to get a wonderful assortment of picnic treats to enjoy.

This is the meeting where we recognize our sponsors, so be sure to take a moment to give our thanks to:

Container Grown - Jeff & Becky Odum Henderson Feed & Supply - LaVerna Henderson Margarita & Peppers - Adam Nunez New Earth Soils & Mulches - lots of great folks here! formerly Texans Agri Products

> Jo Ann and Victor Treat will have our yearbooks ready, and if you haven't yet had a chance to pay your dues, Diane Dyer will be glad to take your money!

> > See you in September!

Upcoming Events

CCS will be taking special orders for Mark Crawford to bring from Georgia for delivery at our October meeting.

October 2,3 Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual meeting LSU Burden Ctr, Baton Rouge contact Claudette Shelfer for more info

October 6 October meeting 6:00 p.m. - plant pickup 6:30 p.m. - social 7:00 p.m. - program Speaker: Mark Crawford Program: "Bark Grafting Made Easy" First Christian Church Parlor 3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe







OCTOBER MEETING MARK CRAWFORD by Dennis Bilyeu

Members of CCS will get a special treat at the October meeting. We will have Mark Crawford from Loch Laurel Nursery in Valdosta, Georgia, coming over to give a presentation. Topics he will discuss will include bark grafting, plus at least one other yet to be determined.

Mark is a well known authority on Camellia Culture and gives numerous talks at Camellia meetings in the Southeastern part of the U.S. We feel very fortunate we will have the opportunity to hear him speak. His presentation will last about one hour, and will certainly be interesting and informative.

Mark will also be hauling a trailer that holds about 100 (one hundred) 3 gallon plants. I will circulate (by e-mail) the list of Camellias available from Loch Laurel Nursery and will also have some copies at our September meeting. Randy McDaniel (936-321-1955; mcpuli@consolidated.net) and I are taking orders from membership to fill the plant order.

Here is an opportunity for CCS members to acquire Camellia varieties that are difficult or impossible to find in Texas and I encourage everyone to review the list of available plants and let us know which ones you would like to have. Mark will be selling



his japonicas for \$25 each and his reticulates for ~\$35 each. The increased cost is to pay for Mark's expenses for traveling to Conroe. It is less than shipping and handling would cost, although Loch Laurel Nursery does not take mail orders, and far less than the cost of a trip to Georgia.

Mark is also known for his foliar fertilizer, that contains Nickel, which sells for about \$30 per quart. A quart will last me many years and I have about 200 plants. This is the only commercially available foliar fertilizer that contains Nickel. If you would be interested in purchasing some of this fertilizer, please let Randy or me know so we can ask Mark if he can bring some.

Mark Crawford will arrive at our October meeting at about 6 PM to begin distributing plants ordered by members. Anyone that placed an order for plants should be at the meeting early to pick up their plants and pay for them.

Whether or not you take the opportunity to buy one of these unique camellias, please be sure to come hear Mark Crawford share his knowledge.



Happy Birthday!

Hope everyone has had a great summer. Happy birthday to our members who had summer birthdays!

June



Mike Dougherty Charlie Gambrill Margie Koehl Roy Kveton Pamela Lewis Laurie McCranor Jim Sadoti Tommy Weeks JR Weidner Jackie Wells

August Bill Dupré Sarah Gooch Peggy LeVrier JoAnn Treat Judy Weidner

September

July

Greg Davis Diane Dyer Bill Feece Beverly Fussell Emory Smith, Jr. Amy Thorn Morris Waller Doris Allwright Buffalo Allwright Lois Boudreaux Bill McCranor Randall McDaniel Meg Mendeck Debra Stallings Sharon Walker

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that I report the deaths of long-time member Bob Tynan on July 8 and of former member Peggy Jonietz on August 11.



Peggy & husband John were members from 2005-2007, and resigned when Peggy developed cancer and became too ill to attend. Notes may be sent to 8943 Summerdale Ln, Conroe 77302. Look for more about Bob next month.

A Message from the Corresponding Secretary / Newsletter Editor:

Did you know that a significant portion of your annual dues goes to print and mail your newsletter? That's right - each issue costs 24 cents to print and 44 cents to mail. That's 68 cents an issue, or \$5.44 a year - over half of a single membership.

If you have e-mail, won't you consider getting your newsletter electronically? Not only will you get it, on average, a day quicker; you will see it in color!

Send a message to judy@cwew.net, and get on the "newsletter by e-mail" list. Thanks!

A Message from the Treasurer:

Our treasurer, Diane Dyer, would like to thank all of you who have already paid your dues, and to remind those who have not yet sent in their money - NOW is the time to PAY THOSE DUES! It's \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a joint membership, a price which can't be beat.

Diane is also collecting a record of your birth month so we can wish our members Happy Birthday. Something new last year - please give us an emergency contact name and number so we can get you help if you have a problem at one of our activities.





GROWERS OF QUALITY ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

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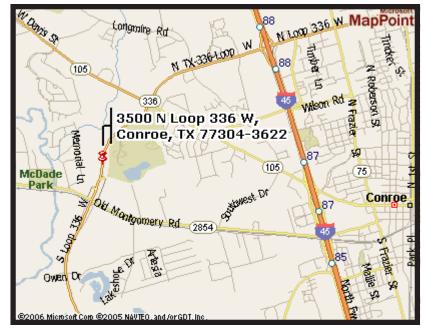
Come join us in the parlor at the First Christian Church at 3500 North Loop 336 West, in Conroe. The church is not far from the intersection with highway 2854, and can be reached from Interstate Highway 45 most easily by taking either exit 84 (Loop 336 S) or exit 88 (Loop 336 N) and proceeding west around the loop to the church, which lies on the west side of the road.

Hmmm - does this location look familiar? It SHOULD! The First Christian Church gymnasium is where CCS holds its annual Camellia Show each January. We won't be meeting in the gym,

however, but the church Parlor, which can be reached through the door opening onto the covered drop-off area.

Our meeting day will remain the first Tuesday evening of each month, from September through April.

Meeting time will still be 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and 7:00 p.m. for the meeting.



Check out the remodeling that was done last year. The new ceramic tile floor in the parlor will make it so much easier to keep clean, and is lovely.

Many thanks to the First Christian Church for this wonderful opportunity! **Members** -- let's make sure we don't wear out our welcome -- **help** clean up after the meetings!

Coushatta Camellia Society P.O. Box 1655 Conroe, TX 77305