

Coushatta

Camellia



August 2011 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

Society

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

Welcome back!

It's been a hot, busy summer, and we badly need 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 kick off dinner will be September 6th in the church parlor. Our Hospitality Committee (Renee Bilyeu and Cherokee Caddell) will provide the King Ranch Chicken and would like club members to bring salad, veggies, breads, or desserts to go along. If you could plan on staying for a few minutes after dinner to help with the clean up, that will really be appreciated.

We will have more information about upcoming dinners as soon as things have been finalized and remember if you have a suggestion for a restaurant, we'd love to hear it. We would love to have our end of the year dinner a picnic style pot luck supper, so if anyone knows a safe place to have it please let us know.

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
and welcome new sponsor:
Gilmore's Florist - Molena Dowell

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



See you in September!

Upcoming Events

September 6 Kickoff Potluck Dinner
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - dinner
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe
Bring a salad, side, bread or dessert.

October 3, 4 Gulf Coast
Camellia Society Annual meeting
Bay St. Louis, MS
contact Claudette Shelfer for more info

October 4 October meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
Speaker: TBA
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

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 I-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.

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**Coushatta Camellia
 Society Newsletter**

*Published monthly, August
 through March, for members of
 the Coushatta Camellia Society*

President Dennis Bilyeu
 Editor &
 Writer Judy Weidner

Minutes: CCS Summer Board Meeting - June 16

Our first meeting of 2011 took place at the home of our new President, Dennis Bilyeu. The meeting began at 5:36 p.m., with a quorum present. Nominated and elected was Don Marcotte for the position of First Vice- President, replacing Mabel Bryant, and Jenny Marcotte, replacing Tommy Weeks for the Member at Large position. Cherokee Caddell was nominated and elected Recording Secretary. Jenny Marcotte was also chosen for replacement voice on publicity. Final approval will be at the September meeting. Voice recorder was suggested for future meetings.

There was discussion of past and future budgets. In the future each committee will have its own budget. Treasurer, Claudette Shelfer reported on standing of budget. Claudette also suggested better inventory of plants and costs (net profit). Claudette reported on past expenditures and sales for home tour, etc. Accounting categories clean up suggested by Claudette and agreed to by Dennis. Better communication between board members suggested by Dennis on all events and in general. Dennis and Claudette to get together for budget work and committee development.

Discussions: • Table rental versus purchase was discussed. • Type of awards briefly discussed • Adoption of Huntsville show suggested- Don Marcotte co-chair. Better plants for Huntsville show suggested with sales from club. • Members present discussed suggestions for membership, information about club, web site, getting info about club out to the public. • Suggestion was made to go to the ACS show in Bay St. Louis in October. • Claudette suggested everyone answer e-mails promptly. • New projects, scholarship, etc. mentioned. More money spent on membership suggested by Dennis. Jenny Marcotte suggested involving Huntsville more,

Dennis and members present agreed. • Renee Bilyeu spoke on membership ideas, welcoming new members and retaining members. • It was suggested that the Presentations be moved to the first of the meetings. Also, donations, member rewards briefly mentioned. • Standing rules versus by-laws discussed by Dennis (to aid in committee running) with the suggestion for standing rules by Dennis (per committee). • Dennis discussed chairmen duties and responsibilities with importance of assistant involvement and finding people with experience, also importance of efficiency. Dennis stated he would like to schedule an individual meeting with each committee leader.

Communication and having fun reiterated by Dennis for club. Dennis suggested past presidents be honored @ September meeting. Also, monthly visits to member's homes suggested as good Public Relations for club and sharing of knowledge. Shirts suggested for Club, maybe reward volunteers with shirt. Type of food at meetings discussed. Money guideline needed to be set for all committees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Members present: Randy McDaniel, Dennis and Renee Bilyeu, Cherokee Caddell, Dick and Sarah Eidem, Claudette Shelfer, Don and Jenny Marcotte, Bill McCranor

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A NOTE FROM YOUR NEW CCS PRESIDENT

by Dennis Bilyeu

I hope you all had a great summer and are managing to keep cool in this very hot weather. We are looking forward to an exciting new CCS year and hopefully, seeing all of you at the Kick-Off meeting.

We had three resignations from your Board of Directors this summer (Mabel Bryant, Tommy Weeks and Jenny Marcotte). The Board has approved Cherokee Caddell, and Laurie McCranor to fill the two positions that were vacant (Jenny Marcotte initially filled the position vacated by Tommy Weeks). We will need to obtain Membership approval of these Board changes and I plan to call for a vote at our first meeting in September.

The Board held three meetings during the summer and summary minutes of those meetings are included in this Newsletter. The proposed budget for the 2011-2012 CCS year, discussed and approved by the Board, is summarized in this Newsletter and will up for membership approval at the September meeting. To my knowledge this is the first time a full year budget has been submitted to Membership for approval. I hope you like this change in operating procedure. You will be seeing more of these type changes as the year progresses. If you read the minutes of the Board meetings you will see some of the issues and ideas discussed that may be presented to Membership for approval during the year.

The proposed budget for 2011-2012 CCS year is for a total of **\$15,245**. We took in **\$15,768** in revenue last year, and if we do the same this year, we will cover our total expenses for the year. If we fall short on revenue, we have over **\$12,000** in our bank account we can utilize. Summary details of where this budget will be spent are shown below. Our Treasurer, Claudette, has additional budget information available. I believe this a generous budget for all our Committees and we will likely have monies left over at the end of the year that will add to our reserve funds. Any left-over funds do not carry over to next year. We will go through this process again next summer and approve a new budget for the following year.

One change which we will implement at the Kick Off meeting is to have the Membership Chairman, the Treasurer and a helper at the entrance to the meeting to greet everyone, have them sign-in, pick up their name tag, review minutes of meetings, review treasurer reports, check to see if you have paid your membership dues, and sign up to volunteer at our events. Doing all these things before the meeting will help expedite our business meetings, which will now take place after our Program presentation.

We welcome members' opinions on these changes and input on new ideas to make CCS a vibrant, growing club.

Projected Expenses for 2011-2012

SOCIAL EVENTS	1,040.00
GENERAL OPERATIONS	1,870.00
GUEST SPEAKER – Donation	300.00
HISTORIAN	-
HOME TOUR	1,500.00
MEETING Miscellaneous	305.00
MEMBERSHIP MAINTENANCE	500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	130.00
NEWSLETTER	290.00
PLANT SALES	6,000.00
PUBLICITY	1,100.00
CCS SHOW	1,800.00
SUNSHINE	110.00
WEBSITE	300.00

TOTAL 2011-2012..... **15,245.00**

Actual Income from 2010-2011:

\$15,768

Amount currently in Reserves:

over \$12,000



Minutes for CCS Summer Board Meeting July 25, 2011

Our second summer meeting of 2011 began at 5:45 at the home of our President, Dennis Bilyeu. A quorum was not present. Dennis passed agendas & Claudette Shelfer passed out the analysis of plant sales for the 2010-11 year, analysis of income for CCS for past year and the bank balance summery. Dennis suggested e-mail contacts and votes instead of always having a formal meeting.

Claudette reported the judge's book has been rewritten and judge's review is needed and will be scheduled.

Don Marcotte reported he had arranged for Bill Caldwell as speaker for our October 4, 2011 meeting, Bart Brechter of Bayou Bend Gardens for November 01, 2011, and Dr. David Creech of Stephen F. Austin for our January 03, 2012 meeting.

JoAnn Treat needs all info that goes into yearbook by August 15. Committee chairmen need assistant identified by August 15 to be able to put names into yearbook.

Dennis suggested formation of a finance committee that would need 3 members. JoAnn Treat to come and discuss non-profit status of club; Dennis to poll group to see who would be interested in attending. Another new committee suggested by Dennis was community services (outreach), adopting a park, (city provides everything needed) to be serviced 6 times a year.

Edie Tong and Dennis Bilyeu are working on securing sponsors.

ACS website was reported as good place for information on camellias, shows, website design, etc. A new person to design and update our website and provide server was mentioned by Dennis.

The budget looking forward and past was discussed briefly. Less money spent on food suggested with more spent on volunteers. Dennis will be sending an e-mail to committee members to look over their budgets for CCS New Year. Claudette stated receipts needed at all plant sales. Treasury report will be one month behind, agreed to by President Dennis Bilyeu

Dennis suggested the possible need for more standing rules to assist committee members with their jobs. Maybe suggestions from past presidents would be helpful.

It was suggested that committee members and volunteers identified early are more efficient, are more engaged, and enjoy the club activities more, with a better understand of their duties and rolls. Memberships need to be better cataloged and kept up with.

Claudette will go on ACS website to check on shirts for the Club.

Door prizes (homemade goods) and raffle (plants) will be at each meeting.

Kick-off dinner was discussed with main course of Kings Ranch Chicken be provided by Renee Bilyeu and Cherokee Caddell and dessert or salad being provided by members at their discretion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Members present: Dennis and Renee Bilyeu, Claudette Shelfer, Don and Jenny Marcotte Cherokee Caddell

Minutes for CCS Summer Board Meeting August 23, 2011

Our third summer meeting of CCS began with a quorum at 5:40 p.m., at the home of our President Dennis Bilyeu. A voice recorder was introduced and Dennis passed out agendas and detailed budget for each committee for the 2011-2012 year. The budget had also been e-mailed to each member. The position of Member-at-large Director (publicity chair) was voted on as Jenny Marcotte resigned the position. By unanimous vote Laurie McCranor was elected to fill that position. Claudette Shelfer seconded the motion. Also, Dennis stated a Proxy vote would be implemented in future elections if all board members could not be present for a vote.

Dennis reported that Joanne Treat would possibly be available the coming week to go over the club's status as non-profit. Members of the board were invited to be present if desired. Dennis also again reported of a person he has contacted to redo and maintain the CCS website possibly for free the first year with a charge of \$56 thereafter. Judy Weidner asked about the budget balancing. Dennis talked about how the budget would work and he and Claudette assured her of the monies available.

The need for new members and better advertisement was again stressed. Laurie asked if enough was budgeted for the cost of the newsletter and Judy stated if there were more pages the cost could double. The budget was raised \$50 to cover rising costs (postage, printing, etc.). Dennis suggested free newsletter to new members for first three months. Budget amount of \$15,245.00 approved for New Year of 2011-2012 Dick motioned to approve and Laurie seconded the motion. Also, the leftover monies do not carry over to the New Year it will go into the reserves.

New projects (scholarship) were discussed with a Jr. or Sr. College student being suggested. Money budgeted for volunteer awards. Shirts for board members suggested by Dennis, Claudette will be checking further on shirts and they will probably be denim and approximately \$26. A bench or plaque displaying the Clubs name was discussed, as was adoption of a park to be attended to by members 6 times a year.

Laurie asked about how many members we currently have and was told roughly 50-60. Renee asked about the whereabouts of the Club's green membership cards.

continued on back page - see Board meeting

Happy Birthday!

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



June

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

July

Greg Davis
Diane Dyer
Bill Feece
Beverly Fussell
Ash Shah
E. B. Smith
Amy Thorn
Morris Waller

August

Bill Dupré
Sue Hall
Patricia Harness
William Harness
Peggy LeVrier
JoAnn Treat
Judy Weidner

September

Doris Allwright
Buffalo Allwright
Lois Boudreaux
Bill McCranor
Randy McDaniel
Meg Mendeck
Debra Stallings
Sharon Walker

A Message from the Treasurer:

Our treasurer 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.

The treasurer is also collecting a record of your birth month so we can wish our members Happy Birthday. Something new in recent years - 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.

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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 32 cents to print and 44 cents to mail. That's 76 cents an issue, or \$6.08 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!

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Board meeting - continued from page 4

It was suggested that updates to yearbooks could be made at the first meeting when yearbooks are handed out. Dick suggested we wait till we had more members for this project. The suggestion was made that we do something for The First Christian Church and a bench in memory of Allie Dezelle was suggested. Randy will be checking on cost and permission. Dennis suggested the possible need for new standing rules to make jobs easier for committee chairmen. Dennis asked that everyone to give suggestions.

Gilmore's Nursery was reported as one of our new sponsors and may have a greenhouse we can use. Dennis, Randy and Dick will be checking it out to see what repairs or improvements will be made and what kind of mutual agreement can be reached.

The storage room was discussed briefly and was tabled for another meeting or time. Committee chairmen need to be setting-up their committees and getting organized ASAP.

Renee and Claudette reported a table would be set-up by the door for the roll, raffle tickets, nametags, minutes, sign-up sheets, etc. Dennis will send information for website to Laurie McCranor and she will give info to web person for updating and organizing. Time has expired for changes for yearbooks this year as Dennis has sent info to Joann. Printing of the budget in the newsletter was discussed and will be included.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Members present: Randy McDaniel, Dick and Sarah Eidem, Dennis and Renee Bilyeu, Claudette Shelfer, Judy Weidner, Cherokee Caddell, and Bill and Laurie McCranor

Coushatta Camellia Society

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