

# Coushatta

# Camellia



## September 2011 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

# Society

### GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

Fall is the time for cooler temperatures, but our friendships stay warm, despite the weather.

### GARDEN TOUR

*by Chairman Bill McCranor*

I would like to express my regrets for having missed the opening meeting in September. Personal problems arose that prevented my wife Laurie and me from attending. You don't know how much I did not want to miss out on the tremendous smorgasbord of home cooked food that has always been spectacular. I'm sure it was as good as always; too bad for me and Laurie. Oh well, life goes on. Now it is time to get down to business with our upcoming open garden tour.

At the October meeting, I will pass around a sign-up sheet for members of this society to place their homes on this year's tour. First off, I would like to ask those that signed up for the tour last year (the first tour ever that never happened) to sign up again. Secondly, those of you that have been on the tour in the past, I would like you consider getting on board again this year.

Now to the members that have never been on the tour — You should know that when you sign up to be a part of the garden tour your responsibilities are very limited. In reality all you are expected to do is clean up your lawn/garden to make it somewhat presentable to the public on the day of the tour. We ask that you provide a 'welcome table' be it picnic table, card table, whatever. If you don't have one, no problem, my committee will take care of that for you. If you have problem areas in your garden or yard where you don't want people to go, my committee will rope that area off for you. In short you really don't have to do much; just sign up. The Volunteers assigned to your home on tour day are amazing. They take care of everything.

*continued on page 2 - see Garden Tour*

### Upcoming Events

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

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

**November 1** ..... November meeting  
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program  
First Christian Church Parlor  
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

**November** ..... Fall Plant Sale



### BRING A FRIEND!!

Coushatta Camellia members have lots of fun. Bring a friend and not only will we get a new member, but you will get a small gift!

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#### September

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Bill McCranor  
Randy McDaniel  
Meg Mendeck  
Debra Stallings  
Sharon Walker



#### October

W. B. Knox  
Tena Koch  
Ruby McConnell  
Lyn Shah  
Claire Surles



Claudette Shelfer is collecting birthdays. Does she have yours yet? Call her at 713-468-6803 or send her an e-mail: ckshou36@comcast.net

### Garden Tour - continued from front page

In the past couple of years we have had a lot gardens on the tour that are very spectacular; a tribute to the hard work of the gardener — thousands of blooms to see. It is great to have expert growers displaying their craft. As tour chairman I am always happy to have them on board. Let's face it those gardens are joy for all to see. They are like the finale of a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. But there is another purpose of our garden tour; perhaps more important. We also want to present examples of ways individual homeowners can liven up their landscapes in winter while the rest of their plants are waiting for the warmth of spring to come alive again. What I am trying to say is that you do not need to have hundreds of Camellias to be a part of the 2012 Garden tour. You just need to be proud of the ones you do have. Take a chance — sign up. You'll be glad you did and I would certainly love to have your garden on the 2012 Open Garden Tour. See you all on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

Sept 1, 2011	Beginning Bank Balance .....	\$12,288.44
	Plus Deposits:	
	Membership Dues .....	\$ 145.00
	Friends of CCS .....	50.00
	Donation .....	<u>5.00</u>
Total	.....	\$ 200.00
Balance	.....	\$12,488.44
	Less Expenses:	
	Newsletter Printing .....	\$ 12.38
	Yearbooks .....	90.00
Total	.....	<u>\$102.38</u>
Sept. 26, 2011	Bank Balance .....	\$12,386.06

### Minutes for CCS September 2011 Meeting Sept. 06, 2011



Our first meeting of the season took place on September 06, 2011, beginning with a social that began at 6:30 o'clock and a potluck dinner at 7:00 o'clock. Main course of King's Ranch Chicken provided by our hospitality committee, with desserts, salads, and other dishes provided by our members. A great time was had by all in attendance and a big thank you to Renee for the decorations and set-up, it was really pretty and inviting. Door prizes went out to Ruby McConnell {gardening gloves} and Elizabeth Williams {Plumeria plant}. Past presidents in attendance were also recognized.

An abbreviated business meeting was held and President Dennis Bilyeu told everyone we would have our guest speakers present their program first and then we would have our business meeting afterwards to make the meetings more interesting and efficient. Our new board of directors was voted on and approved, with a second by Buffalo Allwright. Our 2011-2012 budget was approved with a motion to approve by Morris Waller, seconded by Tina Koch. Our treasurer Claudette Shelfer, told those in attendance that all financial, minutes, sign-up sheets, etc. would be available at the door as they came in. Many of these things will be included in the newsletter.

The program for October is still to be announced. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

- GARDEN & LAWN SUPPLIES
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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

## OCTOBER TIPS FOR THE CAMELLIA GARDENER

*By Dennis Bilyeu*

- 1 This is a very good time to spray dormant oil if anyone has scale problems on their camellias. When you spray, add the Nickel fertilizer-if you have it-and it will jump start the growth of your camellia next spring. If you don't have any Nickel fertilizer, use any kind of soluble balanced fertilizer. October is the last month this year you should fertilize your Camellias. Fertilizing later may expose new growth to freezing weather before it has a chance to harden off. You can mix the fertilizer and dormant oil into one spraying.
- 2 Since we have moved our Camellia Show to early February you should wait another month to start gibbing blooms for our camellia show. If you are planning to attend one of the other shows in January you could start gibbing buds on plants that are normally late bloomers. Start with 30 to 40 buds this week, then come back with more each week. Gibbing will not only control the time your flowers mature, but will also result in larger, showier blooms. Let me know if you need help with gibbing your buds.
- 3 If you still have camellia plants in pots, there are two options you should consider. Take the plant out of the pot and take a look at the root system. If there are lots of roots and the plant looks almost root bound, it is ready to put in the ground. This time of year is a great time to be planting camellias. If you need help planting your Camellia check out the planting procedure on our website or give me a call. The other option is, if you don't see a lot of roots at the edge of the dirt, you should repot the plant. Leaving the plant in the existing pine bark will require frequent fertilizing and daily watering, plus the root system will not develop in a way that sustains the plant in the ground. Carefully remove the pine bark and use a good potting mix, perhaps a camellia-azalea mix to repot the plant and to encourage good root growth. Don't plan on planting in the ground for about a year or until you see good root development at the edge of the root ball.
- 4 Keep watering your Camellias. I have been watering mine every day through this hot dry weather. I have installed a automated watering system that is simple and easy to install, so I don't have to be home every day to water my plants. If you are interested in installing a automated watering system let me know or even better come by and let me show you what I have done.

*Coushatta Camellia Society*

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