

Coushatta

Camellia

Society



September 2007 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

The weather is getting cooler, but our friendships stay warm! 33 members of Coushatta Camellia Society gathered on September 4 to meet new friends and to get reacquainted with old ones. Before our formal meeting, everyone enjoyed a delicious Kick-off dinner planned and coordinated by Jack and Diane Dyer with Mike & Meg Mendeck at our new meeting location, First Christian Church. Thanks to all our members, who filled us up with yummy main course dishes, sides, salads and desserts.

Happy September birthday wishes were extended to Doris and Buffalo Allwright, Lois Boudreaux, Bill McCranor, Meg Mendeck, and Emmalee Striebeck. Please keep Emmalee Striebeck and Margaret Lewis in your prayers, as they are not feeling well.

The new 2007-2008 yearbooks were made available by Jo Ann Treat, with help from the Schanks. Thank you JoAnn and Victor for yet another job well done! It was suggested that future yearbooks have a memorial section.

Diane Dyer and Beverly Roach are investigating places to hold our Christmas and April dinners. Our Christmas feast will take place at Panorama, probably on a Monday.

Mike Mendeck asked for volunteers to work on the Garden Tour committee. He and the committee will be contacting people who would like to be on the tour.

Dennis Bilyeu talked a little about a confederation of the 3 East Texas camellia societies (Tyler, Houston and CCS) to work on special events, particularly a show in Huntsville in 2008. There will be more information about this project in October.

The meeting was adjourned with a reminder of the October 2 meeting.



Upcoming Events

October 2 October meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
Program: "Rainwater Harvesting"
Speaker: Mike Mendeck
Montgomery County Master Gardeners
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

October 11 ? October Field Trip
Mercer Arboretum (date to be finalized)
More information at October meeting

October 27 Annual Plant Sale
Outside of Kroger
1217 N Loop 336 West
Place your special orders early!
Chairmen - Dennis Bilyeu & Dick Eidem

November 6 November meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
Program: "The Good, the Bad,
and the Ugly of Camellia Culture"
Speaker: Mark Crawford
of Loch Laurel Nursery in Valdosta, GA
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe



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Happy Birthday!



September

Doris Allwright

Buffalo Allwright

Lois Boudreaux

Bill McCranor

Meg Mendeck

Debra Stallings

Emmalee Striebeck

October

W. B. Knox

Tena Koch

Ruby McConnell

Claire Surles



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THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY OF CAMELLIA CULTURE

Members of CCS will get a special treat at the November meeting. We will have Mark Crawford from Loch Laurel Nursery in Valdosta, Georgia, coming over to give a presentation. His topics will be called "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Camellia Culture."



Topics he will discuss will cover the new foliar fertilizer that contains Nickel (the Good), the pest and disease that plague Camellias (the Bad), and the latest developments on petal blight (the Ugly). He will also present photos of several new Camellia varieties that are now being propagated.

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 managed to get the last opening on his speaking tour for the year and 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 sixty (60) 3 gallon plants. I circulated the list of Camellias available from Loch Laurel Nursery and am taking orders from membership to fill the 60 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 me know which ones you would like to have. I already have about half of the 60 plant allotment filled. He will be selling his japonicas for \$20 each and his reticulatas for ~\$35 each.

Mark will also bring some of 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 and is indeed a rare opportunity for CCS membership.

You won't want to miss this exciting November meeting!

October Field Trip Mercer Arboretum

October 11 is the tentative date for the October Field Trip. Meg Mendeck will have more information and sign-up sheets for the October meeting.

Ruby McConnell is collecting birthdays. Does she have yours yet? Call her at (281) 292-5472 or send her an e-mail: rgmcc@earthlink.net

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Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President Oscar Schank

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

PLANT SALE 2007

Dennis Bilyeu

Our Fall Plant Sale will be held at the Kroger on the North Loop at I-45N from 7 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, October 27.

Dick Eidem and I made a trip to Forrest Hill, Louisiana this week and picked up about 40 plants that are difficult to find in Texas. We will combine these plants with a good selection of plants from Container Grown Nursery to provide a greater variety of plants than have been available at our plant sale in recent years.

We will also have an assortment of other plants and supplies for sale that will be donated by our Sponsors. Members that have give-away plants they want to donate are encouraged to bring their plants to the sale.

We need volunteers to help pick up plants at Container Grown Nursery on Friday and to haul them to the Plant Sale Saturday morning. We will also need volunteers to help sell plants and collect payment during the Sale.

Volunteers are asked to bring a chair each and at least one table for the group. We will also need Volunteers to help with clean-up and hauling of plants that are not sold. Either Dick Eidem or I will have a Volunteer sign-up sheet at our October meeting.

Fall Plant Sale October 27!

Saturday, October 27, is the date to attend the fall plant sale! Plant Sale Chairmen Dennis Bilyeu and Dick Eidem are hard at work making arrangements. The site of the sale will remain the Kroger on the North Loop 336. Dennis and Dick will have a sign-up sheet at the October meeting, for volunteers to offer to help.

Members should be aware that this is CCS's single biggest fund raiser for the year and we need everyone's help to make this a successful event. To encourage Volunteer participation I am donating a plant from my personal collection to the person deemed **Plant Sale Volunteer** of the year. This person will be identified by our Plant Sale Chairmen and Assistants.

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