# Coushatta Camellia



## October 2007 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

#### GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

#### Fall is finally here!

Cooler temperatures are finally starting to come our way, and the season is fast approaching when the lovely camellia will take the spotlight! A few early camellia blossoms have already started to share their beauty, but most of us will have to wait just a little longer for those buds to fulfill their promise. In the meantime we'll enjoy the lovely splash of color provided by the sasanquas.

#### Houston Camellia Society Show

The Houston Camellia Society Show is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> this year, and will take place again at the Houston Garden Center. We do hope that many of you plan to participate in this show, either as a spectator, or as an exhibitor or volunteer. Houston Camellia Society again needs Clerks and Vote Tabulators on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. HCS provides on the job training. The Houston Show has also agreed to use additional Novice Judges who wish to get credit for helping in the judging.

Please arrive at the Houston Garden Center before 10:00 A.M. for check in, followed by a short 2-hours work session before lunch at 12:30. The Garden Center is in Hermann Park--just east of the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Free parking and

excellent camellia viewing. Please call Jackie Wells (756-2780) to sign up.

# **Upcoming Events**

**November 6.....** Texas Camellia Show planning meeting - 12 noon - at the home of Morris Waller in Huntsville.

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

November 10 .. Houston Camellia Show Houston Garden Center

#### December 3 (MONDAY)

December Social Panorama Country Club Place your order at the November meeting:

1. Tomato Basil Chicken (\$20.50) or

2. Pork Loin (\$20.00)

Cost includes salad, vegetable, bread, dessert & soft drink. Cash bar available.

#### January 8 (SECOND Tuesday)

6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program First Christian Church Parlor





#### **October Meeting & Announcements**

Happy October Birthday to Margaret Lewis, W.B. Knox, Tena Koch, Ruby McConnell, and Claire Surles.

October Program: Our own Mike Mendeck, Master Gardener, presented a very interesting program about Rainwater Harvesting. He touched upon current and projected water usage in Montgomery County, and showed different conservation techniques now available.

CCS Show Chairman Charlie Gambrill reported that plans are well under way for the January 19 & 20, 2008 show. The committees are scheduled similar to last year's.

Set up will be Friday from 2-5, with a reception or social to follow. Maxine Schank, Chairperson of the pre-show social, informed the members that it will be catered by the Italian Grill.

On Saturday, the gym at First Christian Church will be open at 7 a.m. for bloom preparation; brunch will be served from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.; judging will take place from 11:30 to 1:00 pm, when the doors will open to the public. ESCAP will take place at 2 p.m., and doors will close at 5 p.m..

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New show in February: The Texas Camellia Show, sponsored by the Coushatta Camellia Society, the Houston Camellia Society and the Tyler Camellia Society, is a new show that is scheduled to take place on February 23 in Huntsville. The Texas Camellia Show Committee will have its second planning meeting at Morris Waller's home in Huntsville at 12 Noon, November 6. Please contact Morris Waller for directions to his home: 936-295-5160.

Committee members are: Hal Vanis (Chairman), Dick Eidem and Morris Waller (Vice Chairs), Houston Camellia Club representative (Greg Davis), Coushatta Camellia Society representative (Oscar Schank), ACS representative (Dennis Bilyeu), Conroe Show representative (Charlie Gambrill), Awards Chairperson (Sara Eidem), Judges Chairman (Dudley Boudreaux).

Garden Tour Chairman Mike Mendeck and assistant chairman Bill McCranor talked about the February Garden Tour. Please call Mike or Bill if you would like to have your home on the tour. They'll be glad to advise you on logistics and preparation, and help you find volunteers.

**December Social**: We'll be celebrating the start of the holiday season on MONDAY, December 3, at Panorama Golf Village Country Club. We'll gather for a social at 6:30 pm and dinner will be served at 7. The menu choices will be Tomato Basil Chicken (\$20.50) and Pork Loin (\$20), and all dinners will include salad, vegetable, bread, dessert and water or iced tea. A cash bar will be available. Sign up and pay for your dinner at the November meeting, or call Maxine Schank (936) 445-1765 to make your reservation.

Meeting date change - January 8: Due to a conflict with New Year's Day, our January meeting will be held on the second

Tuesday - January 8. Thanks to a lot of hard work by our volunteers - our Fall Plant Sale









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October W. B. Knox Tena Koch Ruby McConnell Claire Surles November Sarah Eidem Ruby Knox Ron Liston Beverly Roche

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Welcome

New Members!

We are pleased to welcome new members who joined in October. Please add their names and contact information to your yearbooks:

**Johnny & Melba Smith** - 12664 Robin Lane, Willis, TX 77378-4748; 936-856-4260

**Randy & Susan McDaniel** - 13999 Kidd Rd., Conroe, TX 77302-7659; (H) 936-321-1955; (C) 936-718-8728;E-mail: mcpuli@academicplanet.com

**Bud & Peggy Crozier** - 23 East Kentwick Place, The Woodlands, TX 77384-5109; (H) 936-271-1712; (C) 936-203-0156; E-mail: PJCrozier@comcast.net



16159 Rabon Chapel Road Montgomery, Texas 77316 936-588-3779

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

story by Dennis Bilyeu

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. A list of available plants is being e-mailed to Coushatta Camellia Society members.

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 \$25 each and his reticulates 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!

Mark Crawford will be at our next meeting at 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.

The cost of these plants will be \$25 for the 3 gal Japonicas and \$35 for the Reticulatas. The increased cost is to pay for Mark's expenses for traveling to Conroe.

Anyone not wishing to pay this price for these plants can contact me before Saturday, November 3 and cancel their order.

Mark has acquired a larger trailer and has capacity

to haul about 120 plants. Currently we have orders for about 107 plants and could take orders for about 13 more plants; so, if you haven't ordered plants yet check the list of available plants and give me a call before Saturday at: 936-760-6744.



## Coushatta Camellia Society

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