

Coushatta

Camellia

Society



October 2005 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

HURRICANES WREAK HAVOC ON COASTAL CAMELLIAS

The record-breaking 2005 hurricane season has had a terrible impact on our beloved camellias this year. Many of our CCS members will be seeing the effects of Hurricane Rita for several years.

Dennis and Renee Bilyeu lost power for several days following Rita, and since their water supply is from a well on their property, the loss in power meant they were unable to pump water. Besides being unable to bathe or cook or clean or flush toilets, the Bilyeus were unable to irrigate their camellias during the record-breaking heat that followed the storm. Dennis is hoping his camellias and orchard bounce back.

The experiences of Hyman Norsworthy, in Beaumont, and the Boudreauxs, in Port Neches, were even more devastating. Hyman wrote an e-mail note when he was finally able to return home:

“I left town the day before RITA hit, and went to my cousin’s in Lufkin. I didn’t get power back at home until the afternoon of October 12, and returned home that night.

While I was in Lufkin, I made arrangements to have the downed trees in my back yard removed. I have lost somewhere between 80 and 100 plants, crushed under the fallen trees. The plants on the east side just blew away and disappeared – I don’t know where they went.

Damage to the house was minimal – high winds blew the aluminum siding off the east gable. I will not rush for repair as the original house siding was underneath. You cannot imagine what this end of town



continued page 2 - see Hurricane

Upcoming Events

November 1 November meeting
6:30 p.m. - social
7:00 p.m. - program
Rivershire Community Bldg.
206 Scarborough, Conroe

Speaker: Tommy Weeks
Coushatta Camellia Society

Topic: . “Latest Air-Layering Techniques”
(From Dr. Cheng Lee’s article/AMC Yearbook)

Nov 12-13 Houston Camellia Show
Houston Garden Center

December 2-3 .. Ozone Camellia Show
Slidell, Louisiana

December 6 December meeting

CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING

Catered at home of
Tommy & Sandra Weeks
11281 Jake Pearson Road

• GARDEN & LAWN SUPPLIES
 • WEED & BRUSH KILLER
 • FERTILIZER
 • INSECTICIDES
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Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President Edie Tong

Editor &
Writer Judy Weidner

HURRICANE *continued from front*

looks like. Many streets are blocked with fallen trees and power lines. Pass the word as I am up to my eyeballs in cleanup and trying to upright a bunch of plants that I think I can save. - Hyman Norsworthy”

Greg Davis was able to reach Lois and Dudley Boudreaux on October 17th and he wrote: “Dear Camellia Friends, I talked to Lois and Dudley today—they got phone service at 5 p.m. yesterday. Port Neches was almost wiped out by >100 MPH winds for 8 hours.

The Boudreauxs evacuated and came back to home on Oct. 4th. Four large oaks and one magnolia fell and smashed many of their camellias. One of the large oaks uprooted in their yard hit the kitchen corner of their home and did much damage. Tree limbs and trunks line all the streets of Port Neches and FEMA predicts it will take 3 months to clear away the debris.

Many camellia plants were blown down with roots exposed—now they have been without water for several weeks –and no way to get water to them. Some camellias

are OK but Dudley now says he wants to enter our < 100 plants Camellia Show!

Dudley and Lois are both doing as well as can be—but the camellias are not. Best Wishes, Greg Davis”

All of us experienced power outages and wind damage of some sort. I have no doubt that the stories I have reported here are only a fraction of those to be told. Let’s hope that with a little elbow grease and a little prayer we will be able to work together to overcome those obstacles that face us, and look forward to enjoying the beautiful camellia both now and in the future.

Houston Camellia Society Show

The Houston Camellia Society Show is scheduled for November 12th and 13th 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.

This year Greg Davis and his Houston group are trying something a little different! The Show will be divided into two Shows:

Show #1 will be for “Old-Timers” – but open to all who wish to compete.

Show #2 will be for “Newcomers” and Exhibitors who have fewer than 100 camellia plants.

The Houston Camellia Society is trying to encourage new growers to enter flowers in a Camellia Show. This format was chosen so that the chance of winning a top prize will be much greater for each individual.

If you would like to volunteer to serve as a Clerk or help in any way with the Houston Camellia Show, please contact Jackie Wells or Greg Davis for more information.



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OCTOBER MEETING

Twenty-seven CCS members were present for the Oct. 4th meeting. President Edie Tong called the meeting to order, and opening prayer was led by W. B. Knox. Happy October Birthdays to W.B. Knox, Tena Koch, Ruby McConnell, and Claire Surles!



Plant Sale Chairperson Dick Eidem announced that October 29th has been selected as the new date for the plant sale. He noted that approximately 165 Japonica plants representing 25 varieties will be available for the sale. Members may buy plants in advance for \$20 from W. B. Knox (call 756-9332). Discussion was held to determine how to update the brochures. Edie Tong will check with Fast Signs for possible methods.

The Camellia Appreciation Project still needs volunteers and a list was passed out for members interested in helping out.

Garden Tour Chairperson, Dennis Bilyeu, commented that in order to have a 2-day tour, ten gardens are needed. During discussion, it was proposed that 4 gardens a days might also serve. Dennis passed out a sign-up chart requesting homes for the tour and for volunteers to welcome the guests. Discussion was held as to whether we should ask for donations to defray the costs of the tour. Most members felt that asking for donations was inappropriate.

The raffle prize, a camellia plant, was won by Deborah Vaughn. Door prizes were won by Linda McCraray, Milton Surles, Phyllis Hartman, Claire Surles, Diane Dyer, and Buffalo Allwright.

Milton Surles, with the help of Claire, shared with the members a slide show of the many different varieties of camellias grown at ACS headquarters, Masee Lane, in Fort Valley, GA. Milton commented on his impressions of some of the blooms as well as his visit to the beautiful gardens.

November meeting

The next meeting will take place at the Rivershire Community Building, 206 Scarborough, Conroe, at 6:30 p.m. for the social hour and 7:00 p.m. for the business meeting.

Our speaker will be our own Tommy Weeks, who will talk about the latest "Air-Layering Techniques" as explained by Dr. Cheng Lee in his article in the American Camellia Society yearbook.

December Christmas Dinner

We'll have a Merry Little Christmas at 11281 Jake Pearson Road, when we meet for a catered dinner on December 6. Many thanks to Tommy and Sandra Weeks for opening their home for us to enjoy! Cost of the meal and the caterer will be announced at the November meeting, when reservations will also be taken. If you are not able to attend in November, call Renee Bilyeu (936-760-6744) for more information.

Happy holidays!



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Coushatta Camellia Society "Sharing Our Best"

Fall Plant Sale Postponed to Saturday, October 29

Thanks to Hurricane Rita, the Coushatta Camellia Society plant sale will take place at the Kroger at North Loop 336 and I-45 on Saturday, October 29.

Dick Eidem will have some great camellias for sale, as well as a variety of other plants and supplies.

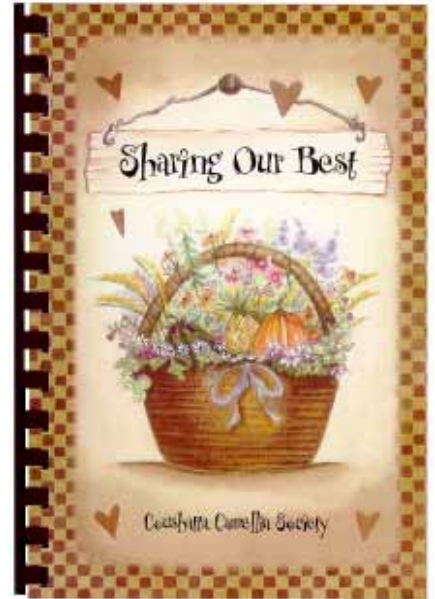
**Y'all come!
(And bring your
friends and neighbors!)**

Take home a Coushatta Camellia Society Cookbook for \$7.50 or take more than one for \$7 each. You'll love looking up your favorite recipes and learning the secrets of our great CCS cooks.

Yum, Yum!

This attractive cookbook would be a perfect hostess gift or stocking stuffer, so be sure to take advantage of the discount for buying more than one!

See Diane Dyer to get your copy, or look for it at the Oct. 29 Plant Sale at the North Loop 336 Kroger.



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